RENT IT RIGHT: Five steps to finding a pad worth unpacking for | **Inside**

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Weekend

AP

U.S. soldiers wait to go on patrol in Iraq Thursday.

Iraq Anniversary: Politics key as war's 7th year begins | 7

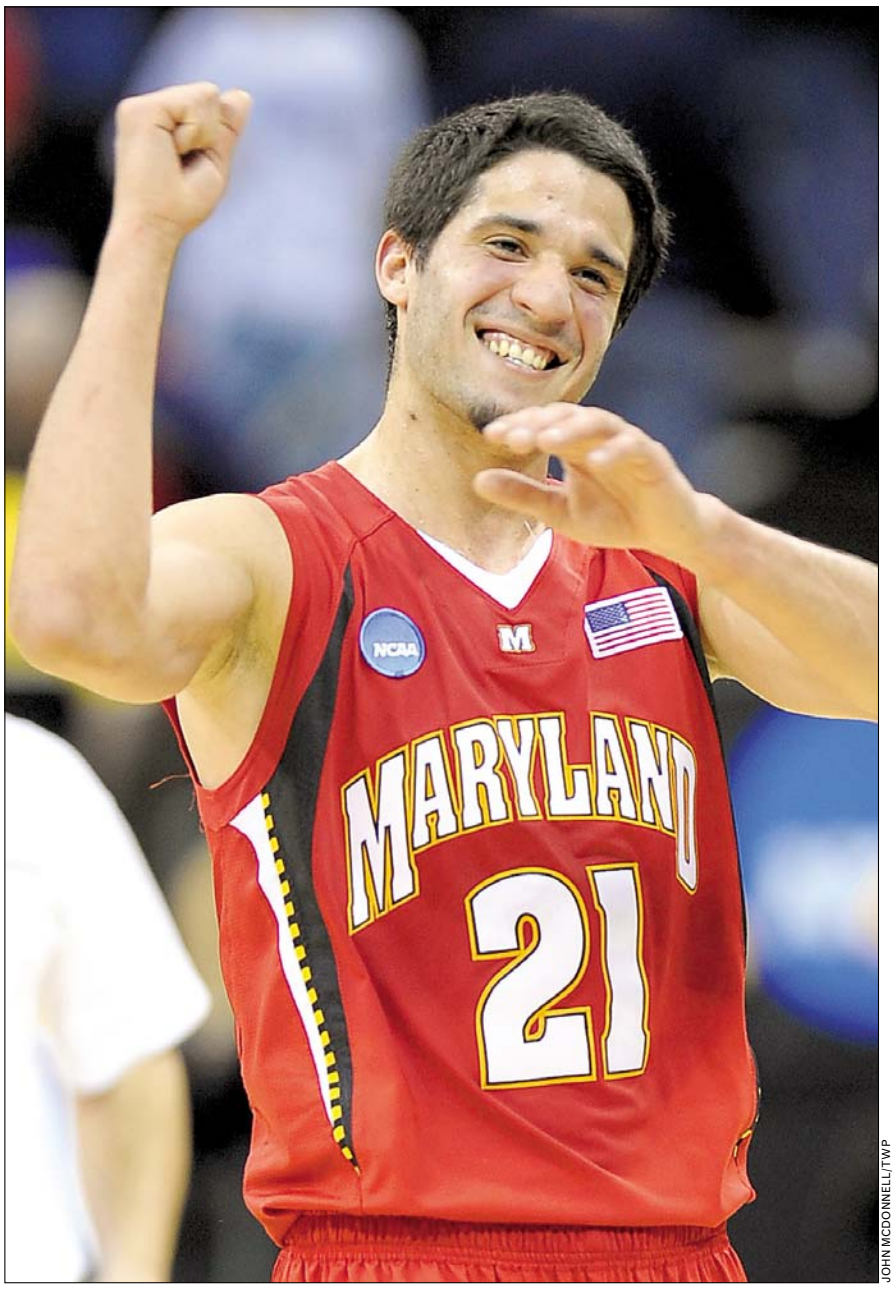
Cage Fights: Texas school allegedly let students brawl | 4

Opening Test: United begins season full of uncertainty | 11

ENTERTAINMENT

BFF: *Paul Rudd* and Jason Segel bro out in 'I Love You, Man.' Plus, Hollywood grieves for Natasha Richardson.

>> 15-24



JOHN MCDONNELL/TWP

Terps Live to Play Another Day

MR. BIG SHOT: Maryland junior guard Greivis Vasquez celebrates during the Terrapins' 84-71 victory over California in the first round of the NCAA tournament in Kansas City., Mo. Vasquez scored 27 points to lead No. 10 seed Maryland into the second round of the West Region, where the team will meet No. 2 seed Memphis on Saturday. ✣ **Title talk:** UMd. women eye big prize | **Page 14**

Big Bonus Tax OK'd By House

Lawmakers overwhelmingly support bill targeting AIG

WASHINGTON | Denouncing a "squandering of the people's money," lawmakers voted decisively Thursday to impose a 90 percent tax on millions of dollars in employee bonuses paid by troubled insurance giant AIG and other bailed-out companies.

Pelosi

The House vote was 328-93. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate.

"We want our money back now for the taxpayers," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. "It isn't that complicated."

The outcome may not have been complicated. But the lopsided vote failed to reflect the contentious political battle that preceded it.

Republicans took Democrats to task for rushing to tax AIG bonuses worth an estimated $165 million after the majority party stripped from last month's economic stimulus bill a provision that could have banned such payouts.

But 85 Republicans joined 243 Democrats in voting "yes." It was opposed by six Democrats and 87 Republicans.

The bill would impose a 90 percent tax on bonuses given to employees with family incomes above $250,000 at American International Group and other companies that have received at least $5 billion in government bailout money. It would apply to any such bonuses issued since Dec. 31. (AP)

pollcenter

SHOULD AIG BE REQUIRED TO RELEASE THE NAMES OF EXECUTIVES WHO RECEIVED BONUSES? A YES B NO

TO CAST YOUR VOTE, VISIT **EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM** OR TEXT **A** FOR 'YES' OR **B** FOR 'NO' TO 98999. FOR THURSDAY'S POLL RESULTS, SEE PAGE 32

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
48 | 33	58 | 36	59 | 41

TODAY: Partly sunny and cooler before warming up for the weekend | 34

eyeOpeners

REJECTION

At Least They Didn't Call Him Big Bertha

A 61-year-old Michigan man has sued his former employer, claiming he was fired from a $75,000-a-year sales job because of his waistline. But the employer says Patrick J. Ronayne was let go because of his performance, not his weight. The Detroit News reported Thursday that Ronayne's lawsuit seeks more than $25,000 from Winston Golf and Winston Manufacturing. It claims weight and age discrimination and that he was let go with the statement "he was not a 'flat belly'" and was replaced with a thinner person. Ronayne is listed in state records as being 5 feet 11 inches tall and 225 pounds. Company spokesman Garrett Morelock calls the claim "absurd." (AP)

IRONY

Garden State To Ban Mowing

New Jersey is drawing the line when it comes to bikini waxing. The state Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling is moving toward a ban on genital waxing altogether after two women reported being injured. Both women were hospitalized for infections following so-called "Brazilian" bikini waxes; one of the women has filed a lawsuit, according to Jeff Lamm, a spokesman for New Jersey's Division of Consumer Affairs. Technically, genital waxing has never been allowed — only the face, neck, abdomen, legs and arms are permitted — but because all-bare "Brazilians" weren't specifically banned, state regulators haven't enforced the law. (AP)

EUGENE HOSHIKO/AP

FOOD

Pigs in a Dumpling

The caption of this photo states that women in Shanghai, China, are making dumplings at a stall that promotes Taiwanese cuisine. From that, we can surmise Taiwanese cuisine leaves very little to the imagination, and might be a great way to spread vegetarianism. If every pork product we had in the U.S. came with adorable pink ears and a button nose, we might think twice about eating it. Or, we'd be faced with the reality that nothing can keep us from our bacon. (EXPRESS)

GAMES

Robbers vs. Robbers

Two robbers leaving a Milwaukee jewelry store with cash and gems didn't get far with the loot — another group of thieves robbed them as the pair left the crime scene. Police Lt. Thomas Welch says a fight broke out in the street Wednesday before the groups got in vehicles and a chase ensued. Welch says officers pulled over both vehicles and arrested four people, including the original two robbers, ages 40 and 31, and two men from the second group, ages 22 and 27. All four are from Illinois. But Welch says police didn't recover any cash or jewelry. (AP)

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CONTACT SPORT: Police in Rocklin, Calif., said a dispute over bowling etiquette led one man to assault another with a 16-pound ball, knocking out one of the man's teeth. Police said the two bowlers approached the lane at the same time and couldn't agree who should go first.

Nation

Richardson Died From Brain Injury

Actress, 45, suffered internal bleeding after falling on a ski slope

NEW YORK | Tony-winning actress Natasha Richardson died of a brain injury after falling on a ski slope, an autopsy found Thursday.

The cause of death was epidural hematoma (bleeding between the skull and the brain's covering), said Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the New York City medical examiner's office. Richardson was not wearing a helmet, and the death was ruled an accident.

Richardson

An epidural hematoma is often caused by a skull fracture. The bleeding causes a blood clot that puts pressure on the brain. That pressure can force the brain downward to press on the brain stem that controls breathing and other vital functions, causing coma or death.

Richardson, 45, died Wednesday at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan after falling at the Mont Tremblant resort in Quebec on Monday.

HILLEL ITALIE (AP)

✤ **Stars remember:** Celebrities bid farewell to Natasha Richardson. **Page 15**

Ex-Official Blasts Gitmo Detentions

Republican says only two dozen of prison's detainees are terrorists

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | Many detainees locked up at Guantanamo were innocent men swept up by U.S. forces unable to distinguish enemies from noncombatants, a former Bush administration official said Thursday.

"There are still innocent people there," Lawrence B. Wilkerson, a Republican who was chief of staff to then-Secretary of State Colin Powell. "Some have been there six or seven years."

Wilkerson, who first made the assertions in an Internet post on Tuesday, told The Associated Press he learned from briefings and by communicating with military commanders that the U.S. soon realized many Guantanamo detainees were not guilty but nevertheless held them in hopes they could provide a "mosaic" of intelligence.

> "There are still innocent people [at the Guantamo Bay prison]."
>
> LAWRENCE B. WILKERSON

Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to comment on Wilkerson's specific allegations but noted that the military has consistently said that dealing with foreign fighters was a complex process.

Wilkerson said many detainees "clearly had no connection to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, and were in the wrong place at the wrong time."

About 800 men have been held at Guantanamo since the prison opened in January 2002, and 240 remain. Wilkerson said two dozen are terrorists. ANDREW O. SELSKY (AP)

ALBANY, N.Y | HARD TO HANDLE

MIKE GROLL/AP

NOT FOR SALE: Wildlife educator Tom Hudak handles a black phase timber rattlesnake during a news conference at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Thursday. An undercover investigation of poaching and illegal sales of New York's native turtles, snakes and salamanders has led to charges against 25 people, officials said.

Rep. Lewis Says Bailed-Out Firms Owe Back Taxes

WASHINGTON | At least 13 firms receiving billions of dollars in bailout money owe a total of more than $220 million in unpaid federal taxes, a key lawmaker said Thursday.

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., chairman of a House subcommittee overseeing the federal bailout, said two firms owe more than $100 million each. "This is shameful. It is a disgrace," Lewis said.

The House Ways and Means subcommittee on oversight discovered the unpaid taxes in a review of tax records from 23 of the firms receiving the most money, Lewis said. The committee said it could not legally release the names of the companies owing taxes. (AP)

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Nation

99.7 | **The percentage of metropolitan areas** in the United States tracked by the Labor Department that experienced a rise in unemployment in January. Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa, was the only metro area where the unemployment rate didn't rise.

Report: High School Held Cage Fights

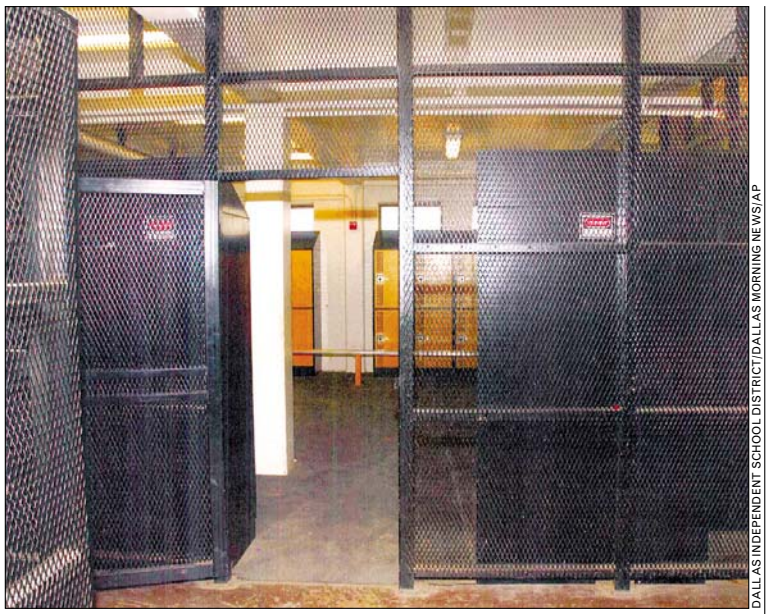
Staff at Texas facility allegedly let students brawl in a locker room

DALLAS | Workers at a high school staged fights among troubled students, making them settle their differences with bare-knuckled brawls in a steel utility cage inside a boys locker room, school district documents show.

The principal and other employees at South Oak Cliff High "knew of the practice, allowed it to go on for a time, and failed to report it," according to a 2008 report from the Dallas school district's Office of Professional Responsibility. The report describes two instances of cage fighting between 2003 and 2005. The documents were obtained by the Dallas Morning News.

Dallas schools Superintendent Michael Hinojosa confirmed that there were "some things that happened inside of a cage" and called the fights "unacceptable."

No criminal charges have been filed in the case.



DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Fights between students were staged in this caged area in a boys locker room at Dallas' South Oak Cliff High School, according to a lawsuit a whistle-blower filed.

Former principal Donald Moten denied the allegations, saying he had nothing to comment on because the fights never happened.

"That's barbaric. You can't do that at a high school. You can't do that anywhere," said Moten, who resigned in 2008. "I never put a stop to anything because it never happened."

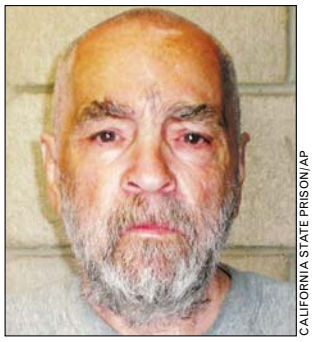
But a current middle school counselor who was fired from the high school and has filed a whistle-blower lawsuit said Moten and members of the school's security staff encouraged the fights.

> "It was gladiator-style entertainment for the staff."
>
> **FRANK HAMMOND**, EX-EMPLOYEE

"It was gladiator-style entertainment for the staff," said former South Oak Cliff employee Frank Hammond. "They were taking these boys downstairs to fight. And it was sanctioned by the principal and security."

The report said Hammond didn't see any of the fights. Hall monitor Gary King told investigators he witnessed the head of campus security and an assistant basketball coach place two students in the cage to fight. (AP)

STATE PRISON, CALIF.



CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON/AP

AGED INFAMY: Convicted mass murderer Charles Manson, now 74, is seen in a picture taken Wednesday by prison officials. The photo was taken as part of a routine update of prison files.

HEARSAY | BAILOUTS

"The first time I took a pencil and figured that out, I was horrified to see it was $55 billion."

—**EARLY DEVANEY**, CHIEF AUDITOR FOR THE $787 BILLION STIMULUS SPENDING PLAN, CALCULATING HOW MUCH OF THE MONEY WOULD BE WASTED IF FRAUD HIT 7 PERCENT.

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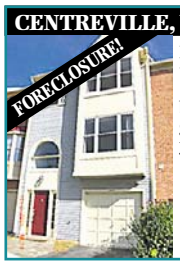

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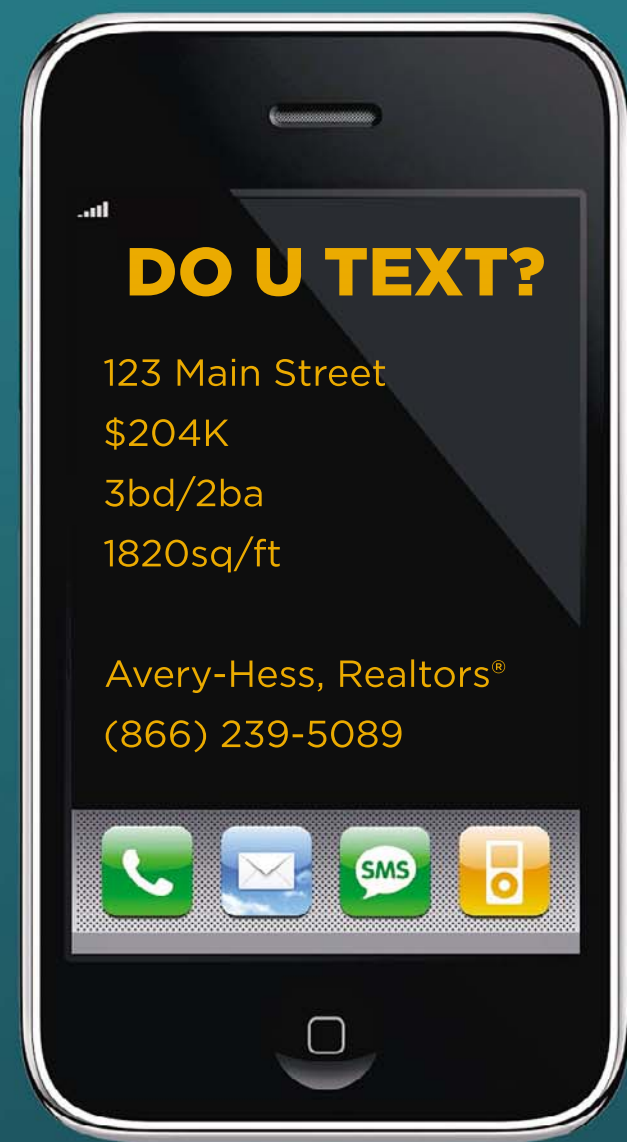

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LANGUAGE BARRIER: A Sri Lankan-born man who came to Britain 17 years ago says he won't serve customers in his Nottingham, England, post office unless they speak English. "If you don't want to be British, go home," he told the Daily Mail.

World

In Brief

LOTHAR SLABON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

An underwater volcano near Tonga shoots smoke into the air Wednesday.

NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA

7.9-Magnitude Earthquake Strikes, Generates Tsunami

A strong 7.9-magnitude earthquake struck Friday near Tonga, generating a tsunami with the potential of striking coastlines in the South Pacific, officials said. There were no immediate reports of injury or damage. Also on Thursday, scientists sailed to inspect an undersea volcano that has been erupting for days near Tonga — shooting smoke, steam and ash thousands of feet into the sky above the South Pacific ocean. (AP)

NAIROBI, KENYA

Bin Laden Urges Somalis To Overthrow New President

Osama bin Laden urged Somalis on Thursday to overthrow their new president, issuing a statement that clearly outlines al-Qaeda's ambitions in a nation long feared to be a haven for the terrorist network. Bin Laden's 11½-minute audiotape was entirely focused on Somalia, which has been in chaos for nearly two decades. In January, parliament elected Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed, a moderate Islamist, president. (AP)

MEXICO CITY

Military Captures a Leader Of Powerful Drug Cartel

Mexico's military has captured the security and operations chief of the nation's most powerful drug cartel, officials said Thursday. Vicente Zambada allegedly became a top Sinaloa cartel leader last year. He was arrested before dawn Wednesday at a home in an elite Mexico City neighborhood, said Gen. Luis Arturo Oliver of the Defense Department. (AP)

Politics Key in Iraq War's 7th Year

As violence declines, lawmakers are wary of new threats to stability

BAGHDAD | Sunni and Shiite lawmakers warned Thursday that political and economic challenges could derail the country's progress toward stability as the Iraq war entered its seventh year.

After six years of war and tens of thousands of deaths, violence has declined sharply nationwide — especially in Baghdad — although the Sunni-led insurgency remains potent in northern Iraq. An Associated Press count recorded at least 288 Iraqi civilians and security forces killed in Feb. 2009 — a 63 percent reduction compared to 769 killed in Feb. 2008.

The Iraqi government held no official ceremony to mark the anniversary of the start of the war, March 20, 2003 — March 19 in the U.S. — with a U.S. attack in Baghdad.

With violence at wartime lows, Sunni and Shiite politicians are focusing more on economic and political issues that the U.S. and many Iraqis fear could stoke the war after U.S. troops begin drawing down this year.

"There are still a lot of challenges ahead, including unemployment and the immigration of millions of Iraqis abroad," Sunni lawmaker Osama al-Nujaifi said. ROBERT H. REID (AP)

KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

A policeman looks at weapons seized by security forces in Baladiyat, Iraq.

AT LEAST 4,259 members of the U.S. military have died in Iraq since the war began, according to a count by The Associated Press.

CAMEROON | PAPAL EXCITEMENT

ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP

WARM WELCOME: Pope Benedict XVI arrives in his Popemobile at the Amadou Ahidjo stadium in Yaounde, Cameroon, on Thursday, before celebrating an open-air Mass in front of a crowd of 40,000. Earlier, the pope met with 22 representatives of Cameroon's Muslim minority, telling them that religion "rejects all forms of violence and totalitarianism."

Journalists Missing in N. Korea

2 American reporters were reportedly seized near Chinese border

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | Two American journalists were missing Friday after they were reportedly detained by North Korea for ignoring warnings to stop shooting footage of the reclusive country.

Journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee, reporters for former vice president Al Gore's online media outlet Current TV, were seized Tuesday along the Chinese-North Korean border, according to news reports and an activist who had worked with them. Their Chinese guide also was detained, although a third journalist with the group, Mitch Koss, apparently eluded capture.

U.S. officials expressed concern to North Korean officials about the reported detentions and said they were working with the Chinese government to ascertain the whereabouts of the Americans.

"When you have two American citizens who are being held against their will, we want to find out all the facts and gain their release," said State Department spokesman Robert A. Wood.

The U.S. does not have direct relations with North Korea. JEAN H. LEE (AP)

Israel to Probe Gaza Killing Accounts

JERUSALEM | Israel's military on Thursday ordered a criminal inquiry into its own soldiers' reports that some troops killed Palestinian civilians, including children, during the Gaza war by hastily opening fire, confident that relaxed rules of engagement would protect them.

Their accounts, published in a military institute's newsletter, echo Palestinian allegations and feed into human rights groups' contention that Israel violated the laws of war.

Soldiers also reported the wanton destruction of civilian property in the Gaza Strip.

The troops spoke at a get-together with students enrolled in a military preparatory course. The transcript of the session appeared this week in a newsletter the institute publishes, Israeli newspapers reported.

In one published account, an elderly woman was fatally shot while walking on a road, even though she was close enough for the soldiers to see whether she posed a threat, Maariv said. Haaretz said the woman was shot from 100 yards away. AMY TEIBEL (AP)

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World

HIGH HOPES: China is planning to build the world's highest Ferris wheel in the city of Guangzhou by October 2010, in hopes of boosting tourism there, Reuters reported.

CLAUDE PARIS/AP

Several thousand workers from both the public and private sectors participate in a protest march in Marseille, France, Thursday.

Massive Rallies in France

1.2 million protesters call for more action against economic crisis

PARIS | More than 1 million people marched in cities and towns around France on Thursday in an impressive call for President Nicolas Sarkozy to do more to overcome the economic crisis, but lukewarm strikes failed to paralyze the country.

In the biggest showing, at least 85,000 people marched through Paris, police said.

The Interior Ministry said 1.2 million protesters turned out for about 200 protest marches across the country. Union officials put that figure at 3 million and said 350,000 marched through the capital.

The day of action was aimed at forcing the government to open new talks on policies to fight the spreading crisis, with unions saying that action so far is insufficient.

Measures Sarkozy announced in February include special bonuses for the needy, and the president has said it would stop at that.

However, unions were looking for an opening from Prime Minister Francois Fillon, but during a televised interview Thursday night, he towed the line.

7.7%
France's jobless rate in the third quarter. It is expected to hit 9.8 percent this year, according to the European Commission.

Speaking on TF1 television, Fillon reiterated there would be "no new economic restart plan" and rattled off a series of already announced measures aimed at limiting the crisis' effects on the needy.

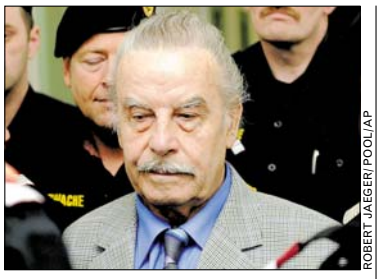
JEAN-MARIE GODARD (AP)

Fritzl Is Found Guilty of All Charges

Austrian receives life sentence for homicide, incest, other crimes

ST. POELTEN, AUSTRIA | Josef Fritzl was sentenced to life in a psychiatric ward Thursday for one of Austria's most notorious crimes: locking his daughter in a dungeon for 24 years, fathering her seven children and letting one die as a newborn.

Fritzl, 73, bowed his head as a jury convicted him of all the charges against him — homicide, enslavement, rape, incest, forced imprisonment and coercion. After locking eyes with his lawyer, he waived his right to appeal, ending a case that has drawn revulsion worldwide.



ROBERT JAEGER/POOL/AP

Josef Fritzl is escorted outside the court in St. Poelten, Austria, Thursday.

The homicide count was the most serious charge, and the jury gave Fritzl the maximum punishment allowed.

"I regret it with all my heart. ... I can't make it right anymore," Fritzl told the court hours before the verdicts were announced.

Fritzl remained under a suicide watch, said Erich Huber-Guensthofer, deputy head of the St. Poelten prison. VERONIKA OLEKSYN AND WILLIAM J. KOLE (AP)

JOB OPPORTUNITY: The Smithsonian Institution is lifting its hiring freeze for workers paid from federal funds now that Congress has approved a 7 percent increase for the museum complex's budget that went into effect in October.

Local

WASHINGTON | FIRST LADY VISITS ANACOSTIA HIGH

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

EXCELLENT EMBRACE: First lady Michelle Obama hugs student Truddie Dee Hawkins during her visit to Anacostia High School on Thursday. Obama held a roundtable discussion with students to mark Women's History Month.

D.C. to Lay Off Hundreds

Some workers already receiving pink slips as city tackles deficit

The District government will lay off hundreds of employees over the next several months to balance its budget in the wake of sharply declining revenues, city officials said Thursday.

Democratic Mayor Adrian M. Fenty is scheduled Friday to release his fiscal 2010 budget proposal, which will be lower than the previous year's for the first time in more than a decade. The city is facing a revenue shortfall of about $800 million, and Fenty said Thursday that the pain will be spread across city agencies and that a personnel reduction is likely.

DRASTIC DEFICIT

The District faces an $800M

revenue shortfall for fiscal year 2010. D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty plans to present his 2010 budget proposal to the D.C. Council Friday.

"It is impossible to close a budget gap and manage it properly without finding savings in personnel," he said after delivering his State of the District address at a senior citizens center in Northwest.

The city's operating budget is about $5.6 billion in local funds, but the 2010 budget proposal will likely be several hundred million dollars less, said government sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The federal stimulus package is expected to inject about $147 million in operating capital, but that will be far from enough to make up the revenue gap, the sources said.

Fenty

Last year, Fenty eliminated hundreds of unfilled government jobs. This year, however, there are few of those remaining, so employees will be laid off, the sources said.

Some agencies have begun to notify those employees who are affected, and others will begin to do so after the budget proposal becomes public.

The council has the option of making changes to Fenty's budget before it is sent to Congress for final approval in June. DAVID NAKAMURA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

> "It is impossible to close a budget gap and manage it properly without finding savings in personnel."
>
> **ADRIAN FENTY,** D.C. MAYOR, SPEAKING ON THE CITY'S DECISION TO CUT JOBS

Survey: D.C. Homelessness Rising

WASHINGTON | An annual survey shows the number of homeless people in the District has increased 3 percent in the past year.

The city's survey of people living in emergency shelters, transitional housing and on the streets in January counted 6,228 homeless people, compared with 6,043 last year.

The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness in the District's survey found that the number of homeless families rose nearly 25 percent.

The survey found about 3,900 single people and nearly 2,300 people in families, including children, were homeless. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, March 19

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	9-9-2
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	9-5-2
Mid-day DC 4	4-8-6-7
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	5-7-7-5
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	5-13-19-28-35
Daily 6 (Wed.)	1-8-11-12-37-38 Bonus: 24
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	2-6-21-27-32 (2)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	1-1-8
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	5-7-3
Mid-day Pick 4	6-9-4-8
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	7-6-5-6
Match 5 (Wed.)	1-14-17-23-38 Bonus: 29
Lotto (Wed.)	3-8-20-27-34-40

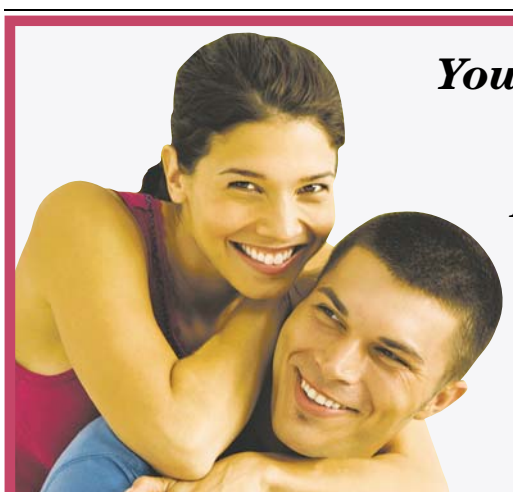
VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	2-8-9
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	4-0-3
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	3-3-8-0
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	4-5-1-5
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	9-10-19-24-26
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	12-19-26-27-31
Win for Life (Wed.)	1-4-16-18-21-37

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	16-26-29-41-45 (1)
Power Play	2X

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.



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Money

Auto Suppliers Get Bailout

Government to give parts manufacturers $5 billion in financing

WASHINGTON | The Treasury Department will pump up to $5 billion in financing into troubled auto parts suppliers to prevent an auto industry collapse that could undermine the government's work to restructure General Motors and Chrysler.

The funds, announced Thursday, will be made available from the government's Troubled Assets Relief Program, or TARP, in a financial entity similar to a revolving credit. Large suppliers would be eligible for financing auto parts they have shipped to the Detroit carmakers but for which they have not yet received payment.

U.S. automakers — General Motors Corp., Chrysler LLC and Ford Motor Co. — will have the option of using the program and designating the companies that need financing, giving them a large role in determining which parts suppliers will survive.

GM and Chrysler, which have received $17.4 billion in government loans, said they would use the program. Ford, which has not sought the government aid, said in a statement it would not participate, "as we remain viable and expect no issue with continued payments to our suppliers."

The action was intended to help with the cash flow needs and stability of distressed auto suppliers, whose collapse could lead to the disruption of car production by the Big Three and inflict more damage on the economy. (AP)

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

→ Parts makers employ about 600,000 people nationwide, and many of the nation's roughly 5,000 suppliers have been cash-strapped for several years as GM, Chrysler and Ford have reduced car and truck production because of falling sales.

JACKSON, MISS. | APPLIED KNOWLEDGE

ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

GOOD FORM: A job seeker fills out a job application while attending the Mississippi Employment Expo on Tuesday. New jobless claims set a record for the eighth-straight week, and few economists expect the labor market to improve anytime soon. As a proportion of the work force, the number of Americans on the jobless rolls is the highest since 1983.

Wal-Mart Pays Out $2B in Bonuses

BENTONVILLE, ARK. | Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has announced it has paid $2 billion this year to its U.S. employees in bonuses, merchandise discounts and retirement contributions.

The world's largest retailer said Thursday that $934 million of the money went toward bonuses, averaging $666 for each of the company's 1.4 million domestic workers.

Wal-Mart Chief Executive Officer Mike Duke said $789 was paid in profit sharing and 401(k) contributions, and the remainder went to the employee stock purchase plan and merchandise discounts for workers.

In a letter, Duke congratulated employees for Wal-Mart's recent successes in an economic environment that has caused its competitors to struggle. (AP)

TERPS MEN'S HOOPS
Good start: Maryland upsets California in the first round of the NCAA tournament, setting up a game against Memphis Saturday. | 13

Sports Weekend

TV Lineup

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Syracuse's Johnny Flynn hopes to avoid overtime after a long Big East tourney.

friday

Noon Syracuse versus NCAA tournament-novice Stephen F. Austin and Temple versus Arizona State are among the early games in the Big Dance. CBS

7 P.M. If you're at home, you'll be watching NCAA tournament games such Boston College versus USC and Ohio State versus Siena. CBS

9 P.M. Hard-core NBA fans can get their fix when the Wizards visit the Denver Nuggets. CSN

saturday

NOON The NCAA women's basketball tournament begins with games at 2 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. ESPN2

1 P.M. A full day of NCAA tournament action tips off right after lunch. CBS

1 P.M. The Wizards take on the Suns after a quick turnaround from the Nuggets contest. CSN

sunday

11:30 A.M. The road to the Frozen Four in Washington begins with the NCAA men's ice hockey tournament selection show. ESPN2

NOON There will be just 16 teams remaining in the Big Dance after Sunday's second round is complete. CBS

1:30 P.M. NASCAR zooms into Bristol, Tenn., for the Food City 500. FOX

2:30 P.M. No. 1 seed Maryland begins its quest to reach the women's Final Four against No. 16 seed Dartmouth in College Park, Md. ESPN

3 P.M. David Beckham will still be in Milan when D.C. United kicks off its season against the Los Angeles Galaxy. CSN

Age of Uncertainty

Analysis: United faces several questions as it opens a new season

UNITED | While David Beckham's absence in Sunday's MLS opener will have a greater impact on the turnstiles and TV ratings, it is D.C. United's missing outside midfielders that will cast a more ominous shadow on the beginning of what may be a very challenging season for American soccer's most successful club.

Veterans Fred and Santino Quaranta will miss the game against the Galaxy with hamstring problems, providing an early test and perhaps a troubling omen for a United side

3 P.M. | CSN
Sunday

that has seen little go right in the past year. The 2008 season largely was a disaster; the five South American signings were busts, the injuries piled up and D.C. went winless in two international tournaments. Worst of all, it missed the MLS playoffs for the first time since 2002.

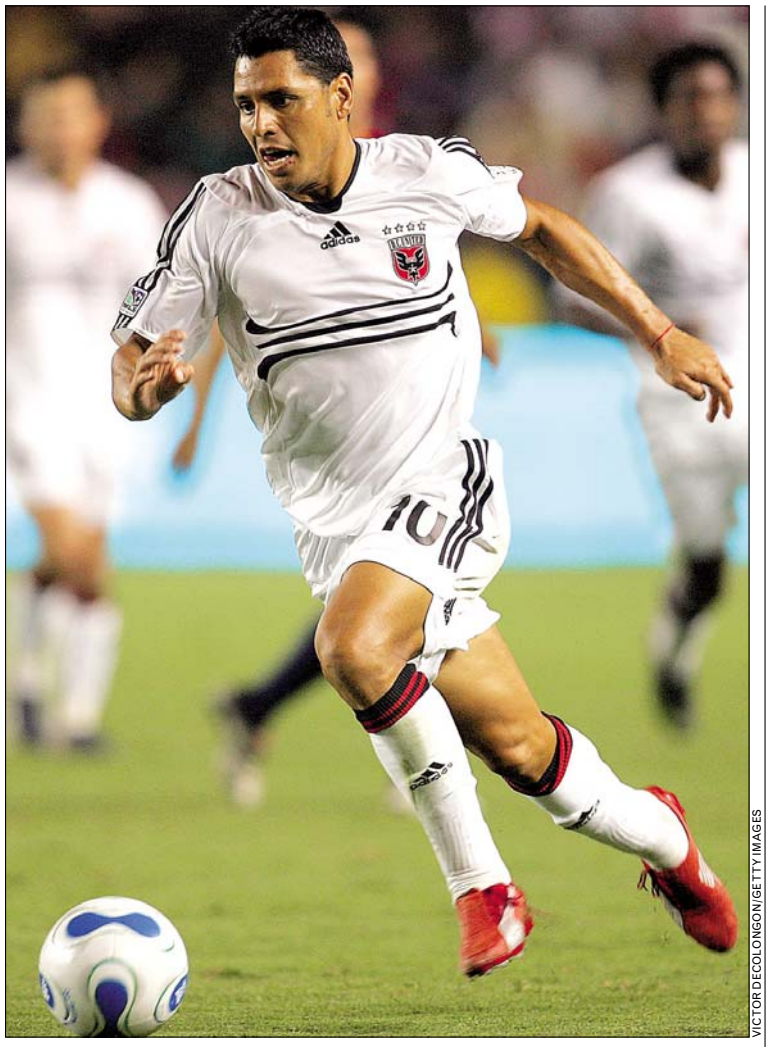
Stadium news and the potential move to Prince George's County have dominated United's offseason, which also featured the departure of $2 million playmaker Marcelo Gallardo and the intriguing return of 2006 MVP Christian Gomez. While the former means more for the club's long-term future, the latter will have the most significant impact on whether D.C. is able to return to the postseason.

Gomez was brilliant for four years in Washington but struggled in Colorado last season, scoring just three goals. United has welcomed him back with no hard feelings. "He was a top player, a very dangerous player. We just never got a contract done [in 2008], and it really was nothing more than that," GM Dave Kasper said. "It had nothing to do with him as a person or his ability." But which Gomez has returned remains to be seen.

The rest of United's lineup, affected by MLS' decision to reduce rosters from 28 players to 24, presents more questions than answers. Is 35-year-old captain Jaime Moreno still an every-game contributor? Can 2007 MVP Luciano Emilio score consistently? Can Fred and Quaranta stay healthy, and will Ben Olsen ever get there? Can a defense that likely will feature three starters under 25 compete against seasoned professionals?

To many nos, and Kasper and coach Tom Soehn may be looking for new jobs while the club faces a significant rebuilding period.

BRIAN STRAUS



VICTOR DECOLONGON/GETTY IMAGES

Christian Gomez excelled in his first stint with D.C. United but struggled in Colorado last season. How he performs will go a long way in deciding United's fortunes.

MLS' 14TH SEASON

Facts: Fifteen teams will play 30 games each in the regular season ending Oct. 25. Eight teams make the playoffs. The MLS Cup final is Nov. 22 in Seattle.

Defending champion: Columbus Crew

2009 favorite: Chicago Fire. Brian McBride and **CUAUHTÉMOC BLANCO, RIGHT,** were longtime rivals on the international stage but now will have a full season together with Chicago, whose attack is augmented by skillful young players such as Chris Rolfe and Justin Mapp. The defense is just as fearsome, featuring all-league performer Bakary Soumare.

Newcomers: The Seattle Sounders join MLS after 15 years in the minor leagues. They've sold more than 20,000 season tickets, will allow fans to vote for the GM and are partially owned by comedian Drew Carey. GK Kasey Keller and former Arsenal MF/Calvin Klein model **FREDDIE LJUNGBERG, ABOVE,** are the most recognizable players.

Up-and-comers: Real Salt Lake may finally be known for something other than a ludicrous name. After a surprising run to the MLS Cup semis, RSL will field a roster of talented young players led by outstanding Argentine playmaker **JAVIER MORALES, ABOVE.**

David Beckham: Not until July. BRIAN STRAUS

HOOPS | **Still Atwitter** Milwaukee Bucks forward Charlie Villanueva was back on his Twitter account Wednesday — safely before tip-off this time. Villanueva's widely publicized experiment with posting to the popular social networking Web site during halftime of a game has ended at the team's request. But Villanueva wonders whether there's any difference between a player's doing a halftime interview and using a mobile phone to post a Web message. "It's kind of a double standard, but that's Coach's opinion and the team's opinion, and I'm going to respect it," Villanueva said. (AP)

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The Capitals' Concern

Washington focuses on improving defense before playoffs begin

CAPITALS | It's not often an NHL team creates a five-on-one breakaway opportunity. But there was the Capitals' top line of Alex Ovechkin, Alexander Semin, and Nicklas Backstrom along with forward Michael Nylander and defensemen Mike Green storming the net in the second period against Carolina last Saturday night.

"I was thinking, 'We'd better score, or we're in trouble,'" said coach Bruce Boudreau after the Caps' wild 5-4 shoot-out victory. "And I was right."

Once a Green shot was stopped by Hurricane goalie Cam Ward, the ensuing breakaway and goal by Carolina's Eric Staal provided more evidence as to what ails the Capitals.

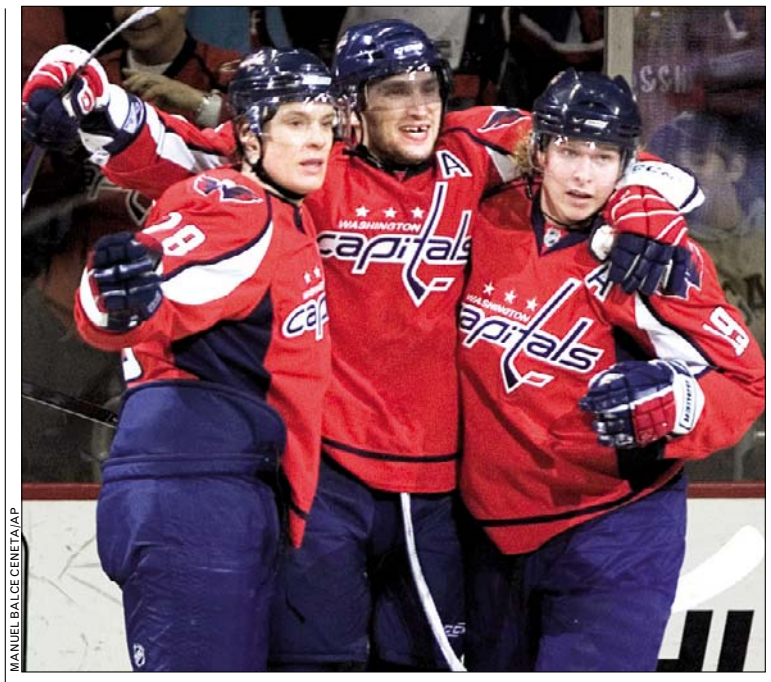
With talents such as Ovechkin, Semin and Green, the Capitals are among the league leaders in every offensive category. But it has become obvious that if the team isn't more responsible defensively, it could be one-and-done in the playoffs for a second-consecutive season.

In its two games since Saturday, the team has shown exactly what its spectrum of defensive play is. In a 5-1 loss to Atlanta Monday, the Capitals played poorly in every aspect of the game, Boudreau said, but what stood out were several Thrasher goals when the defense and penalty kill either couldn't clear its zone or simply turned the puck over. The next night, in a 3-0 win over Florida, goalie Jose Theodore didn't even have to make a save in the third period.

As the Caps prepare for another matchup against Carolina on Saturday in Raleigh, Boudreau knows it will take a similar effort from both his blueliners and his big guns to win now and in the coming weeks.

"In the playoffs, you have to play more structured," he said. "We have a short window of games left … and we have to make sure our guys are aware of this." MARK GIANNOTTO

7P.M. | CSN
Saturday


MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Alexander Semin, Alex Ovechkin and Nicklas Backstrom have the offense covered for the Caps, but can the team become more consistent in stopping its opposition?

> "I was thinking, 'We'd better score, or we're in trouble.' And I was right."
>
> **BRUCE BOUDREAU**, CAPITALS COACH

DISCUSSIONS

BOZ ON NATS

Am I crazy for looking at the Nats' roster and thinking they might actually be pretty decent this year? It looks like the team actually has true major league talent at every position, instead of the roster full of stop-gaps and retreads we've become accustomed to at Nationals Park. Add in the buzz on Jordan Zimmermann's pitching performance this spring, and I'm hoping this could be the Nats' best season since their first. Please, destroy my hopes and dreams, and force me to confront reality.

Your head is in the right place. It's silly, in March, to be blowing up your own excitement. However, I did some research (uh-oh) on how frequently teams do — or do not — show really spectacular improvement in just one season. In the last 50 years, including every team in the game, there have been only 57 times when a team won 20 more games than the previous season.

Please forgive the potential stupidity of this question, but if the Nats are willing to release Shawn Hill due to his injury history, why don't/can't they do the same with Nick Johnson?

You'll probably see them release Dmitri Young and his $5M contract. He doesn't seem to be able to get on the field. And he's not one of Manny Acta's favorites. As for Nick, he had trade value, if healthy, and the Nats can always eat whatever percentage of his $5.5M contract is necessary to move him. If you release him, you pay him for '09 and get nothing. Johnson is playing, and has value and a track record. Hill has none of that. He just had "potential."

washingtonpost.com
Washington Post columnist Thomas Boswell is online every Thursday to take your questions on the Nats and baseball.

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Maryland Smothers Cal

Terps' defense stifles Bears' long-range game in 84-71 1st round win

TERPS MEN'S HOOPS | Maryland never let California get going from long range. Now the Terps are back in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Greivis Vasquez had 27 points and Maryland shut down the nation's best 3-point shooting team in an 84-71 victory over Cal in the first round of the West Regional on Thursday.

Tenth-seeded Maryland (21-13) disrupted Cal with its pressure defense, rarely giving the Bears a good look from the perimeter.

Vasquez controlled the offense and Dave Neal chipped in 15 points, helping the Terps advance past the first round in their ninth-straight NCAA appearance.

Maryland will face No. 2 seed Memphis on Saturday.

Cal (22-11), which shot a nation-best 43 percent from 3-point range during the regular season, was 7-for-24 in this one.

Theo Robertson led the Bears with 22 points, and Jerome Randle had 14 but took just three shots in the second half after scoring 11 points in the first.

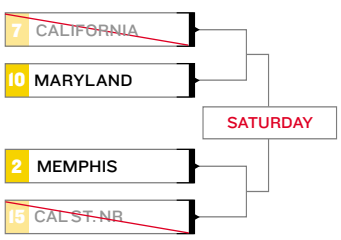
Vasquez, the "Venezuelan Sensation," was his usual crafty self, tossing in off-balanced jumpers against good defense and flipping up quick shots over taller defenders inside.

He had 11 points at halftime, helping Maryland to a three-point lead despite hitting 12-of-32 from the floor. JOHN MARSHALL (AP)

JOHN MCDONNELL/TWP

A University of Maryland fan celebrates the Terps' 84-71 win in Kansas City, Mo.

BRACKET CLOSE-UP



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Maryland's Greivis Vasquez (21) takes a shot between California's Patrick Christopher, left, and Theo Robertson (24) during Thursday's first-round NCAA game.

GAMES TO WATCH

12:25 P.M.: No. 9 seed Tennessee versus No. 8 Oklahoma State is about as even a first-round game as you'll find. Neither would be an easy out in the second round.

2:45 P.M.: No. 11 Temple against No. 6 Arizona State is a prime suspect for an upset, even predicted by President Obama.

7:10 P.M.: No. 12 Arizona versus No. 5 Utah offers the Wildcats a chance to prove they belong in the tournament after riding the bubble.

7:20 P.M.: No. 10 USC against No. 7 Boston College should be a slugfest not for the faint of heart. Either could pose danger for No. 2 seed Michigan State.

9:40 P.M.: No. 9 Siena against No. 8 Ohio State is another favorite for those predicting an upset. The game is in Dayton, which may benefit the Buckeyes.

Sallie, Tigers Avoid Upset

No. 2 Memphis ekes out 81-70 victory over Cal State-Northridge

NCAA HOOPS | After battling heartbreak and tragedy just to reach the NCAA tournament, the Matadors of Cal State-Northridge ran into the greatest game of Roburt Sallie's life. Finally, something proved too much to overcome.

Sallie, averaging 4.5 points all year for Memphis, hit 10 3-pointers and scored 35 as the second-seeded Tigers beat the plucky Matadors 81-70 Thursday, dodging what would have been one of the biggest upsets in tournament history.

Only four No. 2 seeds have lost to a No. 15 since the tournament went to a 64-team format in 1985.

The Matadors, who lost one of their top players in a traffic accident during the season and another to a burglary charge, never seemed intimidated and led most of the second half.

The crowd went crazy when Vincent Cordell's bucket put the Matadors up 62-56. But then Sallie hit another 3-pointer and Antonio Andersonb launched a decisive 9-0 run that saved the favorites. (AP)

ED ZURGA/AP

Memphis' Roburt Sallie, the day's offensive star, defends a lay-up on Thursday.

10 3-pointers were scored by Memphis' Roburt Sallie on Thu.

Swengali

TOPIC | BY MATT SWENSON

MLS Starts on The Wrong Foot

STARTING YOUR regular season on the opening night of the NCAA tournament is sort of like staging a school play on prom night.

Sure, you can do it — just don't expect a big crowd, and certainly don't ask to be seated at the grown-ups' table.

Such is the fate of Major League Soccer, a commendable league on many levels, if only for helping the sport continue to grow in this country.

For some reason, though, it decided to place its 2009 opening game — featuring the fledgling Seattle Sounders and MLS Cup finalist New York Red Bulls — on the opening night of the NCAA tournament Thursday.

Trying to compete is akin to shooting yourself in the foot.

Soccer is becoming a more popular sport here, but the Big Dance is an institution — one you don't compete with if you're interested in drawing a noticeable television audience.

Yes, the first two words in the league's name are "major" and "league" — and, surely, MLS officials think they should not have to make room for another event.

Nice theory. Bad in practice.

Opening day is supposed to a showcase of the sport. Even Major League Baseball bumped up its opener from the Monday afternoon to Sunday night so it can promote one marquee game. Soccer doesn't have baseball's history, either.

March is for Madness in the sports world. Trying to compete is akin to shooting yourself in the foot. And it's hard to kick the ball well when you have only one good foot.

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Weekend | Sports

One Mission to Accomplish

Lady Terps look to cap off season's 2 titles with national championship

TERPS WOMEN'S HOOPS | Kristi Toliver was the hero as a freshman.

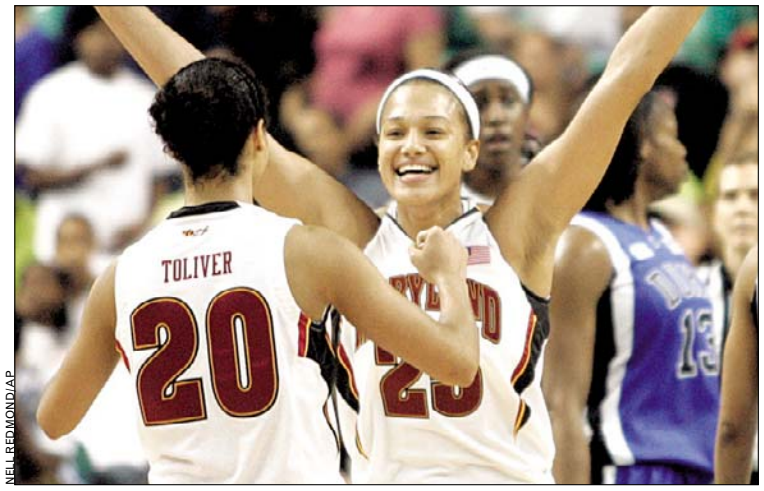
She drained a 3-pointer at the buzzer to send the NCAA championship game into overtime. She then calmly sank the free throws that sealed the deal in the extra session.

Marissa Coleman was a key player during that run, too, fresh from being named ACC freshman of the year.

Now they're seniors going for one last run and handing off the reins of the program after a four memorable years. Since the 2006 title, the Terrapins (28-4) have been the NCAA tournament No. 1 seed twice and reached the Elite Eight once. This year, they won the ACC regular-season and tournament titles.

"More than anything, there is one more goal we need to accomplish: Get to Final Four and win another national championship," Coleman said

They'll begin their attempt on Sunday, when they host 16th-seeded Dartmouth at the Comcast Center. The Big Green (18-10) won the Ivy League. None of the Terrapins knew much about Dartmouth when the brackets were announced.



NEIL REDMOND/AP

Maryland's Marissa Coleman (25) runs to teammate Kristi Toliver (20) as Duke players look on at the end of Maryland's 92-89 win in the ACC tournament March 8.

V

2:30 P.M. | ESPN
Sunday

BRACKET CLOSE-UP

2:30 P.M. | SUNDAY

1 MARYLAND
16 DARTMOUTH

TUESDAY

8 VILLANOVA
9 UTAH

Noon | SUNDAY

"They're in the Ivy League, so I'm sure they're intelligent people," Toliver said. "That's about all we know."

The team they know about, but don't want to talk about, is Connecticut.

The Huskies, owners of the No. 1 overall seed, are undefeated this season, and many predict they'll win the championship with relative ease. Maryland would face only Connecticut in the finals.

"UConn is not in my thoughts right now. Right now, I'm thinking about Dartmouth," Toliver said.

"I mean, UConn could choke and lose to whomever in the second round. It's all about who you have coming up, and right now it's Dartmouth."

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Shake It: Josh Milan is the guest DJ this Saturday at Almaz, where he'll turn soul into the most danceable music around. | **18**

Entertainment Weekend

SCOTT GARFIELD/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

RAW EMOTIONS: Jason Segel and Paul Rudd share a special bond and aren't afraid to show it in the comedy "I Love You, Man."

True Bromance

Sparks fly between Rudd and Segel in 'I Love You, Man'

FILM | The newly minted "bromance" genre, with its now-familiar mix of the sweet, awkward and raunchy, has entered the cultural consciousness through comedies such as "Superbad," "Pineapple Express" and "Role Models."

But it reaches its zenith with "I Love You, Man," starring Paul Rudd and Jason Segel as completely different guys who form an unlikely friendship.

Rudd's Peter Klaven, a sensitive Los Angeles real estate agent who's about to get married, realizes he has no male pals when it's time to choose a best man. He'd rather make root beer floats for his fiancee, Zooey (the lovely Rashida Jones), and her girlfriends, or cuddle with her on the couch for Sunday-night HBO viewing.

Segel's Sydney Fife enters his life as the most charming force of nature, inspiring Peter to jam along to Rush tunes and tap into his inner rage. He lives in a ramshackle Venice bungalow and functions by his own set of rules, which includes wooing divorcees at open houses and refusing to pick up after his puggle because he thinks dog feces are a healthy part of the environment. Segel gives the character a well-intentioned puppy-doggishness of his own, though, which makes him unexpectedly likable.

The formula is pretty predictable from director John Hamburg ("Along Came Polly"), who co-wrote the script with Larry Levin, and the conflict that inevitably arises when Zooey questions their closeness. But the beauty of it lies both in the details of the relationship and the larger chemistry Rudd and Segel share. Clearly, the two ad-libbed a lot of their lines, including a running gag in which Peter is incapable of saying goodbye or getting off the phone gracefully: "I will see you then or I will see you on another time," for example.

But beyond the goofy comedy, this is a bold concept to explore in a movie that's so obviously intended for the mainstream, and for teens and 20-something men in particular. "I Love You, Man" dares to get to the heart of intimate male friendships — or even, as the title suggests, love — the kind of thing most guys don't exactly feel comfortable discussing.

We're on to something true and honest here, which is why it's so disappointing to see the film repeatedly cater to the lowest common denominator with vomit and flatulence jokes. "I Love You, Man" didn't need all that obvious, crass stuff. Its sensitive side was far more attractive. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Farewell to Natasha Richardson

Friends of the actress remember her talent, compassion and spirit

QUOTES | **"Natasha was brilliant,** beautiful, funny, talented beyond measure, as emotionally raw as she was razor sharp. ... May Liam, her beautiful boys and her loving family hold her close as they move through this tragic moment."
— Jodie Foster, who co-starred with Richardson and Liam Neeson in the 1994 drama "Nell."

"Tasha is irreplaceable. I cannot think of anyone kinder, more generous, thoughtful, smarter or more fun. She is godmother of two of my children." *— Mia Farrow.*

"She was one of a kind, a magnificent actress. ... She was also an amazing mother, a loyal friend and the greatest and most generous host you could ever hope to meet."
— Sam Mendes, who directed the Broadway musical "Cabaret" for which Richardson won a Tony Award in 1998.

TINA FINEBERG/AP

Richardson died Wednesday night after injuring her head while skiing.

"I just want to say how deeply saddened I am — we all are. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Liam Neeson, their two sons, the rest of their family and friends. Yet another reminder of how fleeting life can be and how precious. We need to value every moment." *— Oprah Winfrey, on her talk show.* (AP)

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

I recently moved to D.C. from the Pacific Northwest, and I was curious where the best place in D.C. to buy whole-bean coffee is.
We vote for M.E. Swing near Farragut West. The Mesco blend is ridiculously good. Also, Misha's in Old Town has a pretty good selection of beans. Metro accessibility is key.
➜ *M.E. Swing and Co. Inc., 1702 G St. NW; 202-628-7601. (Farragut West)*
➜ *Misha's Coffee Roaster Coffeehouse, 102 St. Patrick St., Alexandria; 703-548-4089. (King Street)*

JAMES M. THRESHER/FTWP

Where, oh, where, can a Pacific Northwesterner find good beans in the East?

Can anyone recommend quaint used bookstores in the DC or NoVa area (not necessarily antique or collectibles)?
My favorite bookstore in the entire area is Capitol Hill Books. It has a wonderful selection of vintage paperbacks, current hardcovers, old cookbooks and old mysteries. A runner-up would be Second Story, but not the overshopped Dupont Circle branch — the supersized warehouse in Rockville.
➜ *Capitol Hill Books, 657 C St. SE; 202-544-1621. (Eastern Market)*
➜ *Second Story Books, 12160 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Md.; 301-770-0477.*

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Criminal Tension

'Duplicity' marries sexual chemistry with spy-vs.-spy intrigue

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

TRUST ISSUES: Julia Roberts and Clive Owen star as lovers who steal together.

FILM | Tony Gilroy penetrated the world of corporate corruption with smarts, suspense and searing insight in his 2007 directing debut, "Michael Clayton."

He revisits that territory with "Duplicity," but he does it with plenty of sexual tension to go along with his usual crackling dialogue and complex plotting. The storytelling here is more dense, but the tone has a sly, sexy playfulness about it that significantly lightens things up.

Julia Roberts and Clive Owen may not immediately seem like the likeliest screen pair for a romantic comedy, especially after the devastating moments they shared in "Closer." But here they enjoy a delightful chemistry as former spies and on-again, off-again lovers who scheme to steal tens of millions of dollars from the dueling corporate behemoths that employ them. Roberts looks great in her return to leading-lady status after a few years off — strong, curvy, formidable — and Owen drops the steamy glower he's adopted of late and almost seems to have a twinkle in his eye this time around.

They've figured out a way to rob the rival pharmaceutical companies for whom they serve as undercover operatives in Manhattan; apparently, paranoia is rampant among the people who are supposed to make you feel better about yourself through conditioner and toothpaste. Tom Wilkinson and Paul Giamatti, as the egomaniac titans of industry on either side of this Park Avenue war, bring substance to what could have been a couple of cartoony roles, and the healthy balance of A-list stars and veteran character actors is part of what makes "Duplicity" so appealing.

But because Claire and Ray are so paranoid themselves, as their careers have required them to be, they never know whether they can trust each other.

The threat of a double-cross infuses their affair with a buzzing and frequently hilarious tension. That's precisely why it seems so needless when Gilroy eventually gives in and spells things out for us. The guessing game was too addictive — for them and for us — and it didn't have to end. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

'Sunshine' Dwells in The Dark

A well-made indie veers away from the predictably feel-good

LACEY TERRELL/OVERTURE FILMS

Amy Adams and Emily Blunt experience the joys of crime-scene cleanup.

FILM | It has become a genre all its own: the dysfunctional-family indie comedy. Done wrong, and these movies can seem too self-consciously quirky (by now, "quirky" feels like a word that was created to describe this kind of film). Done right, and you have a "Little Miss Sunshine" or a "Juno" on your hands.

"Sunshine Cleaning" falls into the latter category — and its producers happen to have been behind "Little Miss Sunshine," too. Both films share an Albuquerque, N.M., setting and Alan Arkin as a lovably outspoken father and grandfather. But, really, that's where the similarities end; despite its perky title, "Sunshine Cleaning" is much darker as it ventures into suicide, adultery and loss.

Amy Adams and Emily Blunt have great chemistry as Rose and Norah Lorkowski, underachieving sisters who stumble into the crime-scene cleanup business. Once a high-school cheerleader, 30-something Rose is now a single mom working as a maid. Younger sister Norah is even more of a screw-up.

All that changes — somewhat — when Rose's married lover (Steve Zahn), a police officer, suggests that she try the lucrative world of mopping up messy crime scenes. Megan Holley's unsentimental script and the performances help keep director Christine Jeffs' film from turning too predictably feel-good. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Entertainment | Weekend

RON PHILLIPS/2008 DISNEY ENTERPRISES

MISSION: NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE: AnnaSophia Robb, center, and Alexander Ludwig, right, star in "Race to Witch Mountain."

Now Playing

CORALINE (PG, 100 minutes) The movie, adapted from Neil Gaiman's enormously successful book of the same name, follows 11-year-old Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning), whose wish to replace the adults in her life leads to a nightmarish experience in a parallel universe. Director-writer Henry Selick doesn't reach for the kind of universality that would enrich the movie. It's a shame, because Fanning's performance is the movie's most emotionally persuasive element. (DT)

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG, 112 minutes) Is Rebecca Bloomwood the embodiment of irresponsible consumership? Absolutely, which makes the timing of the film either genius or fatal, but two things weigh in its favor: One is Isla Fisher; the other is that the film is oblivious to its own gravitas. (JA)

CROSSING OVER (R, 113 minutes) Wayne Kramer's multi-linear immigration story recalls other similarly tangled roundelays such as "Crash" and "Babel" that dealt with the same subjects far more deftly. Harrison Ford plays Max Brogan, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent under whose gruff, scarred exterior beats a bleeding heart of gold. Ray Liotta, Ashley Judd and Jim Sturgess all also appear, as an immigration official, a lawyer and a musician on the prowl for a green card, respectively. At once didactic and exploitative (Kramer makes lurid use of explosive sex and violence), the film isn't just offensive, it's redundant. The themes of tradition, assimilation, post-Sept. 11 paranoia, bureaucratic injustice and intercultural tension have been portrayed more authentically in such recent films as "Under the Same Moon," "Persepolis," "The Visitor" and "Gran Torino." (AH)

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13, 132 minutes) As the protagonists rehearse the movie's core philosophical questions, they wind up making a text of the subtext that lies just under the surface of most romantic comedies: romantic complaint. Gigi (Ginnifer Goodwin) throws herself headlong into every relationship she's in. Janine (Jennifer Connolly) has a husband, Ben (Bradley Cooper), who is distant when they talk about what color to paint a room, while Beth (Jennifer Aniston) has a boyfriend, Neil (Ben Affleck), who refuses to get married. The film isn't a movie as much as a destination; it's the movie equivalent of a quick mani-pedi, with pleasures that go just about as deep and last just about as long. (AH)

THE INTERNATIONAL (R, 116 minutes) Clive Owen plays Interpol agent Lou Salinger, a gruff, obsessed loner who for years has been on the trail of a corrupt bank. Now he's working with the Manhattan district attorney's office, specifically a comely assistant D.A. named Ella Whitman, played in an unobjectionable if undistinguished performance by Naomi Watts. Directed by Tom Tykwer ("Run Lola Run") with sober forthrightness, the film is in many ways a throwback to the monochrome urban thrillers of the 1970s, with the added and topical twist of having a diabolical financial institution at its center. Garbled at times, the movie still hums along with attractive, smooth efficiency. The compulsively watchable Owen makes for an ideal leading man of both action and angst. The film's eye-popping set piece, a shoot-out at the Guggenheim Museum, is an extravagantly choreographed valentine to philistines everywhere. (AH)

JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3-D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G, 76 minutes) Youngsters who adore the Jonas Brothers will have fun at this movie. It contains virtually nothing offensive, unless parents are bothered by the mildly sensual style of

Continued on page 19

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Manci Bäck, *Charlotte Wilke, Modern Dancer*, 1913; Gelatin silver print

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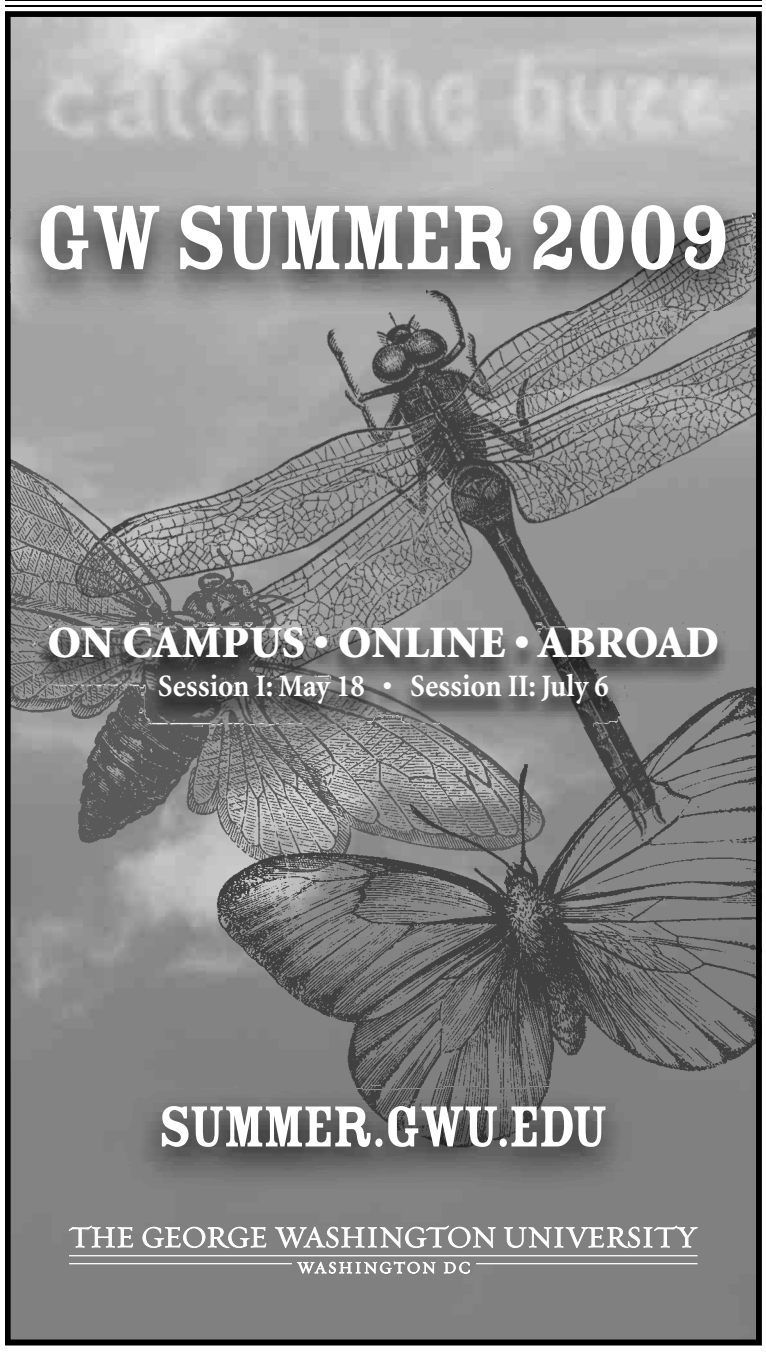

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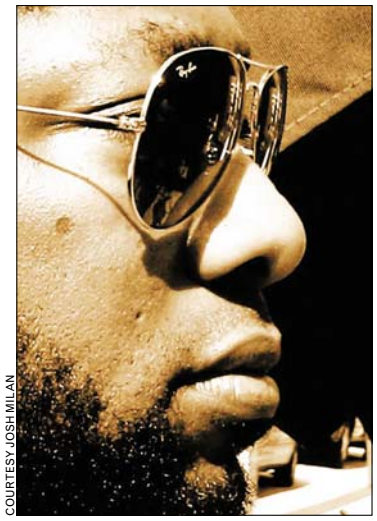
Weekend | Entertainment

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

The Winter Music Conference is a yearly gathering in Miami of the biggest talents in electronic music and the fans who follow them. If you can't get away to sunny South Beach next week, there are some happenings in our own backyard that can get you pretty close — without the beach part, of course. Loda consistently brings together the best local and international talent at **GALLERY** in Silver Spring. For tonight's Forward event — part of a weekend electronica mini-festival — they're upping the ante. With bedrock support from DMV mainstays Aaron Sparks, Joe L. and Baltimore guest LoveGrove, Forward features two spaces with eight DJs covering the tempo and style spectrums from down-tempo to techno. The main event is Jeremy "Ayro" Ellis, a Detroit funk and jazz musician who transferred his keyboard chops to digital beat manipulation. This one-man band creates tracks live onstage with keyboards and drum machines, similar to Mark de Clive-Lowe and others, except Ellis also sings on all of his own tunes.


COURTESY JOSH MILAN

Josh Milan spins dance-y tracks this Saturday at Almaz's Soul Sessions.

SATURDAY

For another proxy for Miami action, check out Saturday Soul Sessions at **ALMAZ**. With its hard-wood dance floor, exposed brick and subdued lighting, the upstairs room at Almaz is nicely appointed for the vibe of a proper soulful house party. Resident Louis P. regularly teams up with the big names to give dancers a serious workout. Tonight's guest is Josh Milan, the voice of the production duo Blaze. His anthems take the emotion of gospel and the song-craft of soul music and apply them to the dance floor. Known for his soaring tenor that fueled hits such as "Wishing You Were Here" and "Found Love," Milan also drops plates on the decks.

Looking for an excuse not to shave for a few days? Have an old Hercule Poirot costume you never get to wear anymore? Sounds like you need to head to the annual Fez and Mustache Party at the Looking **GLASS LOUNGE** Saturday night. Yes, it's a silly conceit for a throwdown, but it is an epic time. As Fritz told you in Free & Easy this week: DJs Jason Seymour and Rebelzero spin "Romani rock, twisted klezmer, Slavic soul and Balkan beats." To help get guests in the mood, free (fake) moustaches will be available for a limited time at the door, and bartenders will be pouring samples of Sobieski vodka. Best of all: There's no cover charge.

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at washingtonpost.com/gog

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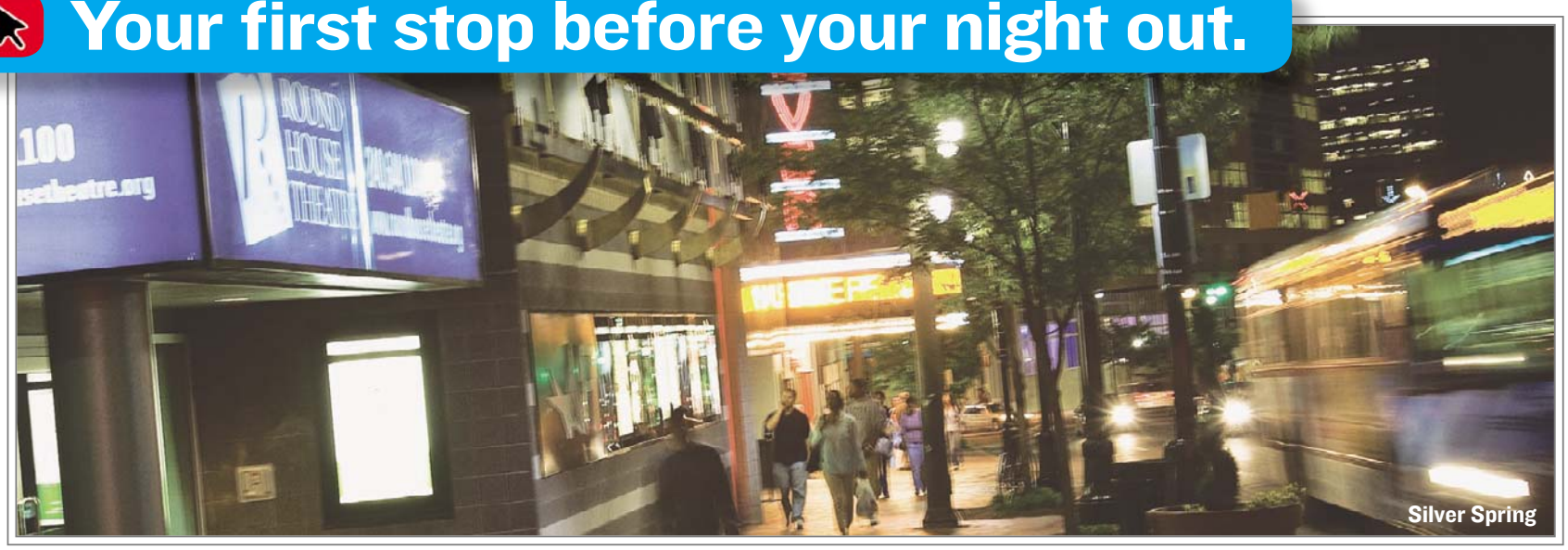

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Entertainment | Weekend

LACEY TERRELL/ROGUE PICTURES

HORRIFYINGLY BAD: This remake of "The Last House on the Left" is even cruder and more disgusting than the original.

Now Playing

Continued from page 17

dance the Jonas boys do onstage or the hilariously Freudian foam spray they aim at their audience in one silly concert bit. For parents, here a critic's opinion, for what it's worth: The film is a contrived and commercial bit of nothing. Even the supposedly "candid" moments backstage or in hotel rooms come off as awkwardly staged, with the brothers unable even to fake spontaneity. The brothers seem, sadly, already jaded by their celebrity. The movie is structured around their 2008 "Burnin' Up" concert tour and an album launch. They seem utterly manufactured as personalities. JANE HORWITZ

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R, 109 minutes) A smashmouth introduction to this remake of Wes Craven's 1972 film establishes Krug (creepy Garret Dillahunt from TV's "Deadwood") as the leader of a group of psychos on the lam: brother Giles, girlfriend Sadie and son Justin. At the other end of the social spectrum is the Collingwood family: father John, an ER doctor, mother Emma and daughter Mari. They're on vacation at their lake house. Mari and her friend Paige run into Justin, who says he has some excellent marijuana. Paige persuades a reluctant Mari to drive them to his place for a little fun. That decision eventually brings the two families together. This version makes significant changes to the original plot, changes that water down the central idea, rendering it more palatable for mainstream audiences. In the end, like virtually every other remake that has been released recently, it's polished and predictable. MIKE MAYO

MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13, 103 minutes) Take Madea out of a Madea film, and you have straightforward melodrama. Minus the supersized, sharp-tongued incendiary matriarch, played in drag by Tyler Perry, the film is a decently made weeper, with the familiar cast of characters from Perry's repertoire: betrayed spouses, fallen women, men struggling to do right and conniving, social-climbing villains in very fine threads. But add Madea into the mix, and Perry's dramas take a strange, postmodern twist, mixing genera and tone, and leaving reality in uncertain circumstances. In Tyler Perry's newest outing, a big-hearted prosecutor (Derek Luke) struggles to save an old friend (Keshia Knight Pulliam) from life on the streets, only to be thwarted by his jealous fiancee (Ion Overman). Madea's perennial struggles with the law grow more serious, and she finds herself doing hard time. (PK)

MISS MARCH (R, 90 minutes) In this cut-rate Apatow-ish raunch comedy by a bargain-bin Paul Rudd (Zach Cregger) and a would-be Jason Segel/Seann William Scott wannabe (Trevor Moore), two mismatched pals take a road trip to see the ex-girlfriend who became a Playboy playmate. Eugene (Cregger) is the nerdy guy who co-hosts abstinence lectures in middle schools with his chaste girlfriend, Cindi (Raquel Alessi). They're saving themselves for marriage. But on his way to a reluctant coupling, Eugene gets drunk, falls, bonks his head and slips into a four-year coma. Best-bud Tucker (Moore), the guy who got him drunk, revives him with a whack on the head with a baseball bat and takes his atrophied pal on a road trip to the Playboy Mansion, where Cindi has gone from Miss Purity to Miss March. The road trip that is the heart of the movie is as dull as the real drive from mid-America to the L.A. Playboy Mansion. (ORLANDO SENTINEL)

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG, 98 minutes) Screenwriters Matt Lopez and Mark Bomback have retooled the Alexander Key novel that provided fodder for the original 1975 film, creating a vehicle for Dwayne Johnson. Johnson is a sly delight here, playing an ex-con named Jack Bruno, who has traded in his NASCAR dreams to drive a cab in Las Vegas. In between trundling sci-fi geeks to a UFO convention, Jack picks up a pair of very anxious blond tweens named Seth (Alexander Ludwig) and Sara (AnnaSophia Robb). Once Seth halts a pursuing SUV with his breastplate and Sara levitates Jack's tip change, it

Continued on page 20

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Now Playing

Continued from page 19

becomes clear that Jack is dealing with two strays from outer space who have crash-landed in the desert. With government agents hot on his trail, Jack endeavors to spirit his young charges back to their ship. Johnson (the wrestler formerly known as "the Rock") lifts the script above its conventional cat-and-mouse stratagems with his buoyant wiseacre timing. (JS)

TWO LOVERS (R, 108 minutes) In James Gray's quiet, unadorned romantic drama,

FRANK MASI/FOX SEARCHLIGHT

ALMOST FUNNY: Zach Cregger and Trevor Moore try to amuse in "Miss March."

Joaquin Phoenix is his old, clean-shaven self as Leonard Kraditor, a troubled young man who has moved back in with his parents in Brighton Beach. Torn between a gorgeous if unstable shiksa goddess (Gwyneth Paltrow) and the nice Jewish girl (Vinessa Shaw) his mom and dad are clearly crazy about, Leonard ultimately has to decide which self to express: the romantic but doomed artist or the settled but thwarted family man. Movies have visited this terrain before, from "The Graduate" to last year's wonderful "Momma's Man." But the film has its pleasures, too, even if Paltrow seems wildly out of place in a drama committed to adamantly un-starry realism. The movie's chief value is to

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– Maria Salas, CW Miami

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Rolling Stone
"HUGELY ENJOYABLE.
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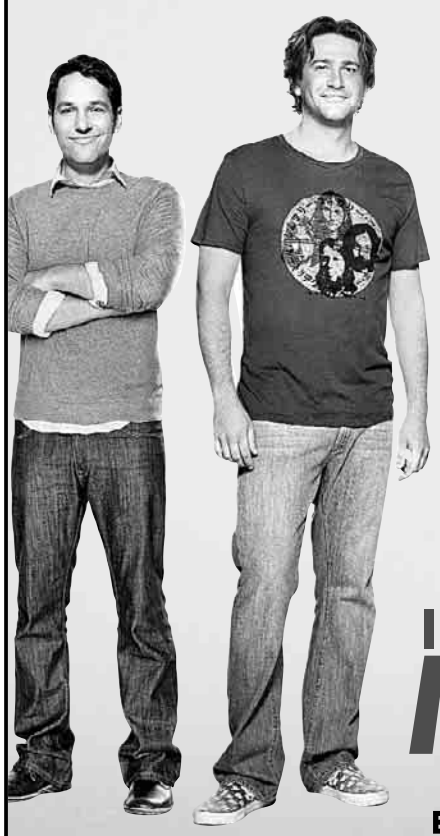
Peter Travers



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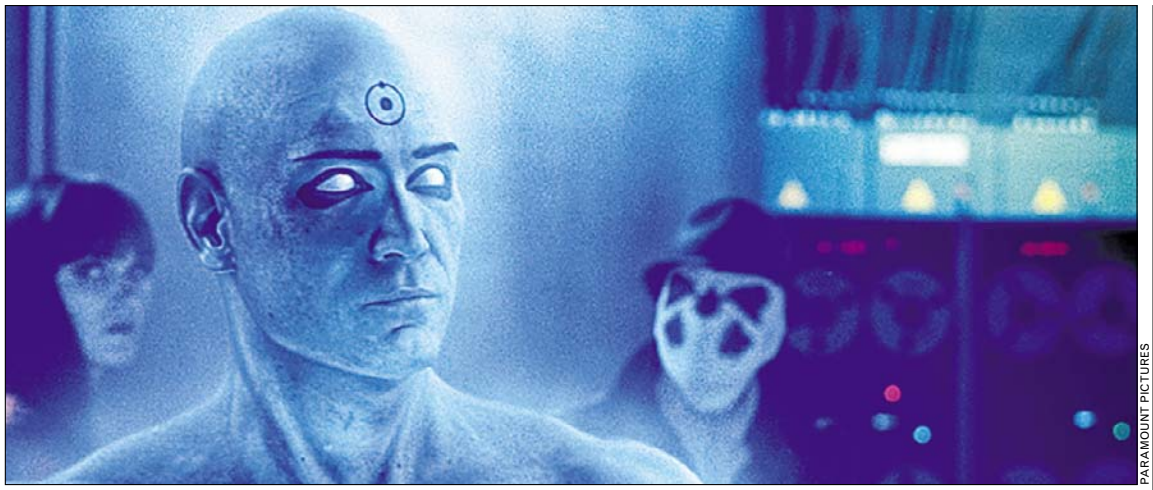
Now Playing

preserve Phoenix at the height of his wary physical grace, which recalls a young Marlon Brando. (AH)

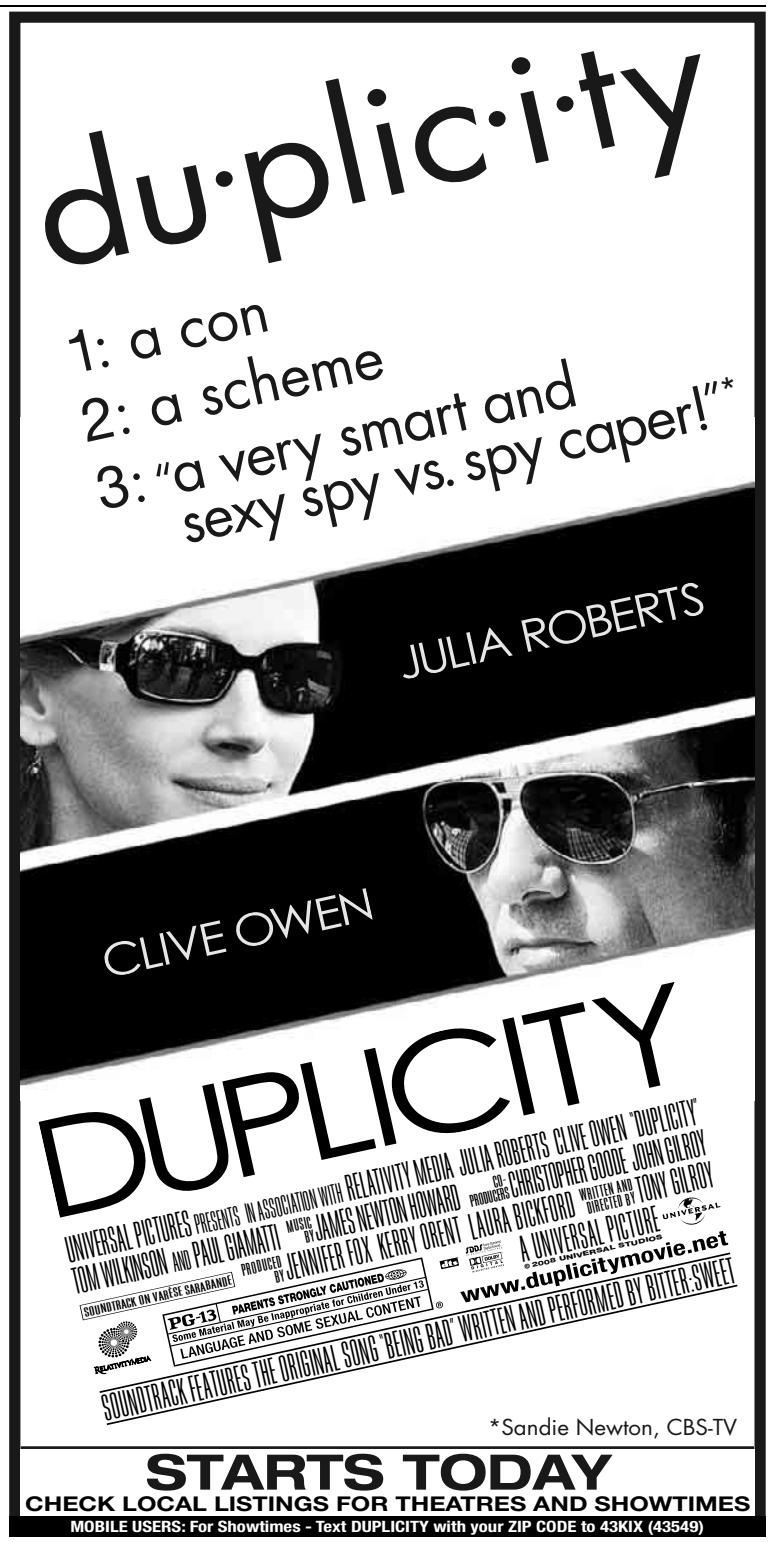
WATCHMEN (R, 163 minutes) The film, like the 1986 graphic novel by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, follows the tormented daily lives of a ragtag band of retired superheroes caught up in a plot to save the Earth, and themselves, from the machinations of a self-appointed savior of mankind, who may not have mankind's best interests at heart. The gang's all here: the psychotically righteous Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley), the dangerously smart Adrian Veidt (Matthew Goode) and the shape-shifting blue nudist with seemingly limitless power, Dr. Manhattan (Billy Crudup). The movie exposes the glaring problems with the original material: The dialogue stinks and is filled with cliches. But when it marches in lockstep with the tedious plot, the only watch that matters in "Watchmen" is the one on your wrist. (PK)



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

GLOWING PERFORMANCE: Billy Crudup stars as the ultra-blue Dr. Manhattan in the big-screen adaptation of "Watchmen."

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S **JOHN ANDERSON, ANN HORNADAY, PHILIP KENNICOTT, JAN STUART** AND **DESSON THOMSON**. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE **WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT**



Weekend | Entertainment

out there

SEEKING ANSWERS ON THE TOWN

Q What will you be wearing this spring?

DISTRICT SAMPLE SALE | MARCH 18

1. "I'm a pastels type of girl," Stephanie Hernandez. **2. "A maxi dress,"** Irina Arango. **3. "Definitely jumpsuits,"** Tara Papanicolas. **4. "The color yellow,"** A. Jackson. **5. "I'm ready to wear color,"** Georgio Takounakis. **6. "Spring colors,"** Stephanie McKenzie. **7. "A white wife-beater,"** Dana Evans. **8. "Strapless dresses,"** Maria Coles. **9. "Florals, florals everywhere,"** Barbara Martin. ROBYN MINCHER

achy tingly twitchy fidgety

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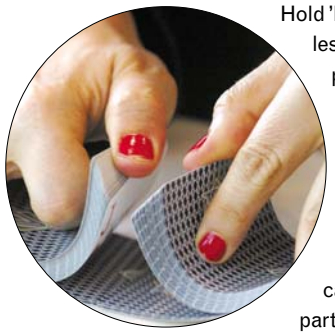
1 Call It a Trend, If You Must

The dance-band craze is currently taking the music industry by storm. Catchy guitar chords, poppy synths and toe-tapping beats give these bands a sound that's appropriate at rock venues and dance clubs alike. Bouncy British boy-girl duo the Ting Tings are riding the wave of dance-band popularity by cranking out simply written, hook-driven hits that combine the best of British punk sounds with trendy new rave beats — oh, and those hipster haircuts.

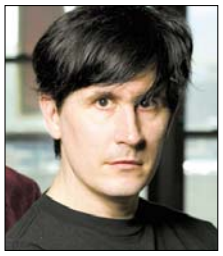
➜ *9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Fri., 8 p.m., sold out; 202-393-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)*

3 Poker Face



Hey, ladies, do you like poker? Do you like alcohol? Do you like doing good deeds? This may come as a shock, but you're not alone. Leave the SO at home and spend Sunday afternoon at Chick With Chips. That's right: it's a ladies-only Texas Hold 'Em tournament — a short lesson in poker strategy will precede the actual card-playing — whose $65 entrance fee will benefit New Endeavors by Women, a charity for homeless women. If you're a gentleman, you can't play poker, but you can participate in a manly scotch tasting.

➜ *Restaurant 3, 2950 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington; Sun., 2-6 p.m., $65; 703-524-4440. (Clarendon)*



top stops WEEKEND

4 Reading a Song, Singing a Story

If you're one of those people who hates Bob Dylan because he can't sing, you'll probably hate singer-songwriter John Darnielle. But if you're more interested in a story well told, this up-tempo American folk music will probably appeal.

➜ *Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, 600 I St. NW; Sat., 8 p.m., $18-$20; 202-408-3100. (Gallery Place)*

5 Shake Your Groove Thing

Same rawking party, new space. After several moves, Fatback might have found a permanent home on U Street. This Saturday, the monthly DJ night relocates to LIV at Bohemian Caverns. Mix the venue with the skill and energy of the Fatback DJs and it's a given that their infectious blend of funk and soul will get bodies moving.

➜ *LIV at Bohemian Caverns, 2003 11th St. NW; Sat., 10 p.m., free; 202-299-0800. (U St.-Cardozo)*

Midnight Mayhem

If you're bored and restless this weekend, don't despair: Midnight movies at the E Street Cinema have returned. You've already missed its screening of "Jurassic Park," but show up this week for "Fight Club," that movie about the violently disaffected, disconnected "middle children of history." Really, midnight shows are about popcorn, talking to the screen and recalling how profound or exciting these movies once seemed, when you first saw them in high school or elementary school.

➜ *E Street Cinema, 555 11th St. NW; Sat. and Sun., 12 a.m., $10; 202-452-7672. (Metro Center)*

COMPILED BY Express' Karmah Elmusa and Fiona Zublin. Read more of their picks every day — and for what's coming up this weekend — at **Expressnightout.com/topstops.**

dine&dash

DAKOTA FINE

Classy Brunch for A Classy City

AS SPRING APPROACHES, so does the delightful prospect of brunch. No longer must we stay huddled in our houses on weekend mornings, fearful of the snow and rain. No longer will we be cowed by sub-freezing temperatures and weather advisories to take shelter in our quests for a satisfying, stupefying weekend morning meal.

1905 (1905 Ninth St. NW; 202-332-1905), the chic, sorta-new bistro waffling between the Shaw and U Street districts, has caught on to this basic human love for brunch. The restaurant began serving brunch last weekend, Sundays only. The eatery's cuisine doesn't fall into an easily articulated category (except "tasty") — it's a little bit Cajun, a little bit Southwestern and a little bit Mediterranean. And, yes, french toast is available at brunch.

The brunch menu, at least in its initial form, is small, but enticing. You might want to go for the Spanish tortilla, an egg and potato concoction that has nothing to do with the flat burrito-wrappers you're envisioning right now. Another standout is the chef's take on eggs Benedict, which includes a rice cake where you'd expect an English muffin.

The food here is all a little bit heavy but not greasy, conserving the best filling elements of a hangover brunch and excising the most disgusting. Though 1905 is pricier than, say, the Diner (2453 18th St. NW; 202-232-8800), you won't leave feeling like you just fried your arteries in butter. FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

@ Dine & Dash has more on local eats at **Expressnightout.com/dine**

Television

MOVING ON: "Will & Grace" star Eric McCormack is returning to multicamera comedy with a starring role on a still-untitled ABC half-hour pilot. We're guessing this means curtains for his current series, "Trust Me," on TNT.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

STAY FOCUSED
Joe wants J.D. to keep his head in the game on **FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** (9 p.m., NBC, Fri.).

THE CULT MOURNS
Milestones for the night include the fourth-season and series finale of **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA** (9 p.m., Sci Fi, Fri.), a two-hour episode.

ECONOMIC OBSESSION
Scheduled on **20/20** (10 p.m., ABC, Fri.): tips on making ends meet, a hedge-fund manager who now delivers pizzas and business that have thrived in the face of the downturn.

NOT-SO-STARVING ARTISTS
The loosely scripted, improv-style comedy **PARTY DOWN** (10:30 p.m., Starz, Fri.) revolves around six cater-waiters and employees of the Party Down Corp., who work the local Hollywood circuit while awaiting their next big break.

SCI FI CHANNEL

THE END OF AN ERA: Tune in to the final episode of "Battlestar Galactica" tonight.

'I LOVE YOU, MAN' PROMO
Jason Segel appears on **LATE NIGHT WITH JIMMY FALLON** (12:35 a.m., NBC, Sat.).

SOB STORY
On **THE LOCATOR** (9 p.m., WE, Sat.), a 26-year-old woman searches for her four sisters who have been scattered after being lost in foster care that was necessitated by their mother's drug abuse.

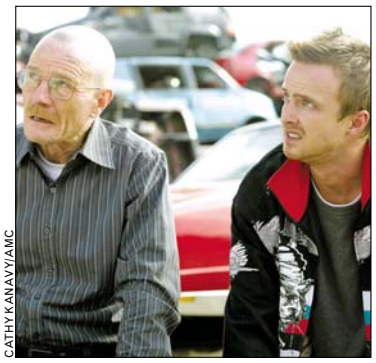
LAST MAN STANDING
A planetary epidemic leaves one survivor to contend with a mutant race in the 2009 shocker **I AM OMEGA** (9 p.m., Sci Fi, Sat.).

BASED ON THE BOOK
Over the next four weeks, Lifetime will turn over its Saturday nights to movies based on the novels of Nora Roberts. Tonight's offering, **NORTHERN LIGHTS** (9 p.m., Lifetime, Sat.), stars Eddie Cibrian as a cop reeling from the death of his partner.

MONEY ON OUR MINDS
DATELINE (7 p.m., NBC, Sun.) will devote its next three episodes to the financial crisis. Tonight's installment, "The Mortgage Crisis," contains interviews with people at all stages of the housing debacle.

EPIC PROGRAMMING
A biblical parable/soap opera set in a modern fable, **KINGS** (8 p.m., NBC, Sun.) is big and strange and different for network, or even premium, cable.

THE BATTLE RAGES
The Prophet turns the tables on **BIG LOVE** (9 p.m., HBO, Sun.).



CATHY KANAVY/AMC

The situation gets stickier for Walt and Jesse this Sunday on "Breaking Bad."

INTO THE FIRE
Walt and Jesse's funds dry up on **BREAKING BAD** (10 p.m., AMC, Sun.).

KIWI COMEDY
Murray uses the boys as inspiration on **FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS** (10 p.m., HBO, Sun.). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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KNOWING (PG-13) (100 200 345 445) 630 730 915 1015
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 215 400 500) 645 745 930 1030
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (135 420) 705 1000
OC & DA: THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (220 PM)
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (505 PM) 750 PM 1025 PM
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D 1045 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (130 230 415 515) 700 800 945 1020
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1255 PM 430 PM) 815 PM
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (405 PM) 635 PM 900 PM
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (120 PM 435 PM) 720 PM
TAKEN (PG-13) (235 530) 805 1040
PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (145 PM)
THE READER (R) - ID REQ'D (105 350) 650 935
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (205 450) 735 1035

MAJESTIC STADIUM 20
900 Ellsworth Dr, Silver Spring, MD 240-393-4826
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
KNOWING (PG-13) (120 200 420 510) 710 800 1000 1045
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 130 315 400) 600 700 830 945 1100
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (1145 225 505) 745 1025
RW & DA: THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (100 345) 615 845 1115
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 235 500) 730 1005
RW & DA: RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (145 410) 640 900
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (1215 115 245 335 515 555) 735 820 1020 1040
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 230) 605 655 930
CORALINE - 3D (PG) ★ (1205 220 455) 720 950
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D (330 PM) 1030 PM
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (1220 250 530) 815 1055
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) 1035 PM
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (110 415) 705 1010
TAKEN (PG-13) (125 340) 620 835 1050
GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (210 450) 740 1015
THE READER (R) - ID REQ'D (105 405) 650 940
DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 325) 645 955
PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1255 350) 610 825

ROYALE STADIUM 14
8505 America Blvd, Hyattsville, MD 301-864-3456
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
KNOWING (PG-13) (110 400) 715 1000
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (150 425) 730 1020
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (120 410) 700 950
RW & DA: THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (125 355) 650 945
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (205 435) 750 1025
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (115 345) 655 930
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D 955 PM
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (100 200 430 530) 815 935
STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUN-L (PG-13) (450 PM) 725 PM 1030 PM
FIRED UP (PG-13) (155 PM)
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (105 145 330 415) 705 745 940 1010
CORALINE (PG) (130 PM 445 PM) 710 PM
TAKEN (PG-13) (140 440) 720 1005
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (135 420) 735 1015

BETHESDA 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 1240 220 310 450 540) 720 810 945 1030
KNOWING (PG-13) (1130 210 500) 750 1030
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (1115 200 445) 730 1015
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 230 500) 800 1025
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (1145 205 425) 710 940
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 330) 700 1015
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (130 PM)
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (145 PM) 910 PM
TAKEN (PG-13) (1240 300 520) 740 1000
DEFIANCE (R) - ID REQ'D (400 PM) 700 PM 1000 PM
LAST CHANCE HARVEY (PG-13) (1130 AM 430 PM) 650 PM

BOWIE STADIUM 14
15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
KNOWING (PG-13) (1100 1145 145 230 430 515) 715 800 1000 1045
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 300 530) 800 1030
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (1105 200 445) 730 1015
FIRED UP (PG-13) 915 PM
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 1230 215 300 445 530) 715 815 1000 1045
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (1130 1215 200 245 430 515) 700 745 930 1015
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 245) 615 945
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (1115 1200 145 230 415 500) 645 745 1030
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (115 400) 700 945
CORALINE - 3D (PG) ★ (1100 130 415) 645
TAKEN (PG-13) (1200 215 500) 730 1010
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D 930 PM

GALLERY PLACE STADIUM 14
701 Seventh St NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (1145 220) 500 745 1030
KNOWING (PG-13) (1200 1245 300) 345 615 700 915 1000 1210
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 200) 445 730 1010 1240
SUNSHINE CLEANING (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 115) 315 400 630 710 900 945 1130 1220
OC & DA: RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (1205 PM)
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 130 240) 410 520 645 800 935 1035 1215
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D 1015 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (230) 455 725 955 1225
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1210) 330 655 1025
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (1140 225) 505 740 1020
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) 1230 AM
CORALINE - 3D (PG) ★ (1150 215 440) 705 930 1205
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (110 PM) 415 PM 715 PM
TAKEN (PG-13) (1240) 310 535 750 1005 1235

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12
671 N Glebe Rd 800-FANDANGO 377#
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
KNOWING (PG-13) (1230 130 330 430) 630 730 930 1030
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (215 500) 750 1035
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D 1010 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (140 415) 700 945
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 255 425) 635 805 1015
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (120 350) 620 850
TAKEN (PG-13) (1210 240 510) 740 1005
DOUBT (PG-13) (200 PM 440 PM) 735 PM
FROST NIXON (R) - ID REQ'D (110 410) 710 1020
GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (155 PM 450 PM) 800 PM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 720 1030

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
KNOWING (PG-13) (1250 150 350 450) 650 750 950 1050
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 135 335 435) 635 735 915 1015 1155
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (120 425) 720 1025
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 145 330 430) 625 725 905 1005 1150
OC & DA: RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (100 PM)
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (200 340 440) 610 710 840 940 1115
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D 935 PM
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 410) 800 1140
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (105 345) 620 900 1130
THE INTERNATIONAL (R) - ID REQ'D (420 PM) 730 PM 1030 PM
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) (110 PM 400 PM) 700 PM
CORALINE - 3D (PG) ★ (115 350) 640 920
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (140 445) 745 1045
TAKEN (PG-13) (240 510) 740 1010 1200
PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (155 PM)

KINGSTOWNE STADIUM 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center 703-822-4956
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
RW & DA: DUPLICITY (PG-13) (125 430) 730 1020
KNOWING (PG-13) (1130 1245 215 345 500) 645 745 940 1040
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 100 230 400 515) 700 800 930 1030
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (1225 330) 625 915
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (1140 220 320 455) 610 750 855 1025
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D (410 PM) 935 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (1135 1235 200 305 420) 615 715 845 945
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 310) 635 1000
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (1215 240 505) 735 1005
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) (1250 PM)
CORALINE - 3D (PG) ★ (105 PM 335 PM) 640 PM
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (115 PM) 630 PM
TAKEN (PG-13) (1155 210 435) 705 920
PAUL BLART MALL COP - DP (PG) 910 PM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 340) 655 950

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20
45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (1220 120 320 420) 640 740 940 1040
KNOWING (PG-13) (1200 100 300 400) 630 730 930 1030
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 1250 215 340 445) 650 750 920 1020
OC & DA: RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (110 PM)
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (1135 210 455) 755 1035
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D 935 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (1150 220 345 450) 620 720 850 950
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 PM 410 PM) 800 PM
FIRED UP (PG-13) (135 PM) 725 PM
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (1225 310) 610 845
THE INTERNATIONAL (R) - ID REQ'D (435 PM) 1005 PM
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) 905 PM
CORALINE - 3D (PG) ★ (1130 200 430) 715 955
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (125 PM 405 PM) 645 PM
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (1210 305) 615 915
TAKEN (PG-13) (1205 230 500) 745 1025
PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (1245 325) 625 900
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG) (130 PM 425 PM) 655 PM
GRAN TORINO (R) - ID REQ'D (105 350) 700 1000
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 330) 710 1010

FOX STADIUM 16
22875 Crawford Plz, Asburn, VA 703-957-1035
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (110 210 400 500) 700 800 950
KNOWING (PG-13) (130 230 430 530) 720 820 1010
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 240 510) 740 1015
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (220 450) 750 1030
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D 830 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (1220 200 300 440 540) 710 810 940 1035
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 350) 715 1040
FIRED UP (PG-13) 745 PM 1000 PM
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (1240 PM 310 PM) 600 PM
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) (100 340) 620 850
CORALINE - 3D (PG) ★ (1250 320) 610 840
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (1235 PM 250 PM 520 PM)
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (1230 330) 630 930
TAKEN (PG-13) (150 410) 640 900
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (140 420) 730 1020

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10
4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (100 150 350 440) 700 730 1000 1030
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D (200 430) 740 1010
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 1245 340 415) 710 745 1040
JONAS BROTHERS CONCERT 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING (G) ★ (1220 240 445) 705 920
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (1205 PM 225 PM 450 PM)
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) (1230 400) 725 1025
TAKEN (PG-13) (130 420) 720 940
THE WRESTLER (R) - ID REQ'D 735 PM 1015 PM
THE READER (R) - ID REQ'D (110 410) 715 1005

MANASSAS STADIUM 14
11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#
Adv. Tix on Sale MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
Adv. Tix on Sale FAST AND THE FURIOUS
DUPLICITY (PG-13) (1030 130 445) 730 1030
KNOWING (PG-13) (1145 1230 245 330) 630 715 930 1015
I LOVE YOU MAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 1200 145 230 415 500) 645 745 945 1045
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 300 530) 800 1040
MISS MARCH (R) - ID REQ'D (100 PM) 1010 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ★ (1045 1130 115 200 345 430) 615 700 900 1000
WATCHMEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1050 215) 610 950
JONAS BROTHERS CONCERT 3D - SPECIAL EVENT PRICING (G) ★ (1040 AM) 915 PM
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) (1100 210 515) 740 1020
CORALINE - 3D (PG) ★ (1240 PM 315 PM) 620 PM
TAKEN (PG-13) (1110 150 450) 720 940
PAUL BLART MALL COP (PG) (400 PM) 750 PM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 310) 600 845

Times For 3/20 Bargain Matinees In ( ) OC= Open Captioned RW=RWC Available DA= Descriptive Audio Available DP= Digital Projection * Pass/Discount Ticket Restrictions Apply © 2009 www.REGmovies.com

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AMC Select - Special films for select tastes.

AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22
Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria

IMAX WATCHMEN: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R) 12:10, 3:50, 7:30, 11:15

DIGITAL 3D
JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 12:50, 5:25, 10:00
CORALINE 3D (PG) (10:20 @ $8), 2:55, 7:35, 12:05

DUPLICITY (PG13) (10:00, 10:45 @ $6), 12:55, 1:35, 4:00, 4:40, 7:05, 7:45, 10:05, 10:45, 12:40
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (11:15 @ $6), 12:15, 2:00, 2:50, 4:45, 5:35, 7:30, 8:10, 10:15, 10:55, 12:45
KNOWING (PG13) (10:35 @ $6), 12:45, 1:35, 3:45, 4:30, 6:45, 7:25, 9:45, 10:25, 12:35
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (10:50, 11:35 @ $6), 1:45, 2:20, 4:25, 5:05, 7:10, 7:55, 9:55, 10:40, 12:30
MISS MARCH (R) 2:05, 7:20, 12:25
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (10:05, 11:40 @ $6), 12:30, 2:20, 3:00, 5:00, 5:40, 7:40, 8:20, 10:50
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) [D] [CC] (11:00 @ $6), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00
WATCHMEN (R) (11:10 @ $6), 2:50, 6:30, 8:15, 10:15, 11:45
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) (11:25 @ $6), 12:05, 2:05, 2:45, 4:40, 5:20, 7:15, 8:00, 9:55, 10:35, 12:20
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) (10:55 @ $6), 1:25, 4:05
THE INTERNATIONAL (R) 6:40, 9:35, 12:20
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) (10:30 @ $6), 1:30, 4:30, 7:35
PUSH (PG13) 10:30 PM
TAKEN (PG13) (10:35 @ $6), 12:55, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) (10:40 @ $6), 1:00, 3:20, 5:45

AMC SELECT
CROSSING OVER (R) 10:10 PM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 12:25, 3:20, 6:15, 9:10, 11:55
THE READER (R) (11:15 @ $6), 4:25, 9:40

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway

IMAX WATCHMEN: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R) (11:30 @ $9), 3:15, 7:00, 10:40

DIGITAL 3D
JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 12:45, 5:30, 9:55
CORALINE 3D (PG) (10:05 @ $8), 3:00, 7:30

DUPLICITY (PG13) ✓ (10:10 @ $6), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ (10:20 @ $6), 12:50, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:05
KNOWING (PG13) ✓ (10:35 @ $6), 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:25
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) ✓ (10:15 @ $6), 12:55, 3:30, 6:10, 8:40, 11:15
MISS MARCH (R) ✓ 9:30 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (10:00 @ $6), 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) [D] [CC] (10:45 @ $6), 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:45, 11:10
WATCHMEN (R) (10:30 @ $6), 2:20, 6:00, 9:45
FIRED UP (PG13) 10:15 PM
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) (11:20 @ $6), 2:10, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) (10:50 @ $6), 1:30, 4:05, 6:55
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) (10:25 @ $6), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15
TAKEN (PG13) (10:40 @ $6), 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50

AMC SELECT
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (11:00 @ $6), 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14
3111 K Street, N.W.

DIGITAL PRESENTATION
MISS MARCH (R) ✓ 1:55
THE INTERNATIONAL (R) 4:20, 7:15, 10:10

DUPLICITY (PG13) ✓ 12:30, 1:45, 3:30, 4:45, 6:30, 7:45, 9:30, 10:45
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ 12:00, 1:25, 2:40, 4:05, 5:20, 6:45, 8:00, 9:25, 10:40
KNOWING (PG13) ✓ 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) ✓ 2:30, 5:25, 8:05, 10:50
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ✓ 12:10, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20
WATCHMEN (R) 12:00, 3:25, 7:05, 10:35
WATCHMEN (R) [CC] 12:00, 3:25, 7:05, 10:35
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) 2:00
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) 2:45
TAKEN (PG13) 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

AMC SELECT
SUNSHINE CLEANING (R) 1:50, 4:25, 5:40, 7:00, 8:15, 9:40, 10:55
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:35, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15
THE READER (R) 4:40, 7:35, 10:30

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886

IMAX WATCHMEN: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R) (11:15 @ $9), 2:45, 6:15, 9:45

DIGITAL 3D
JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 10:25, 3:10, 7:55
CORALINE 3D (PG) 12:30, 5:25, 9:55

DUPLICITY (PG13) ✓ (10:15 @ $6), 12:20, 1:20, 3:20, 4:20, 6:20, 7:20, 9:20, 10:15, 12:10
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ (9:50, 11:30 @ $6), 12:25, 2:10, 3:05, 4:40, 5:35, 7:10, 8:05, 9:40, 10:35, 12:15
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) [CC] ✓ (9:50 @ $6), 12:25, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35
KNOWING (PG13) ✓ (9:45, 10:45 @ $6), 12:35, 1:35, 3:30, 4:30, 6:35, 7:35, 9:30, 10:30, 12:20
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) ✓ (10:50 @ $6), 12:05, 1:30, 2:40, 4:15, 5:15, 6:55, 7:50, 9:35, 10:25, 12:10
MISS MARCH (R) ✓ 10:40 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ✓ (10:10, 11:10 @ $6), 12:00, 12:45, 1:40, 2:30, 3:15, 4:10, 5:00, 5:45, 6:40, 7:30, 8:15, 9:10, 10:00, 11:40
WATCHMEN (R) 12:55, 4:25, 8:00, 11:30
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) (11:45 @ $6), 2:25, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) (10:40 @ $6), 4:05, 9:25
TAKEN (PG13) (10:20 @ $6), 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05, 12:20
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) 1:45, 7:05, 12:25

AMC SELECT
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (11:00 @ $6), 1:50, 4:35, 7:25, 10:20

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.

DUPLICITY (PG13) ✓ 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) 8:10, 10:35
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30
THE INTERNATIONAL (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25
CORALINE (PG) 12:40, 3:00, 5:30 *3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES*
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10
THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (PG13) 12:50, 4:20, 8:00

AMC SELECT
THE READER (R) 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo

DUPLICITY (PG13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (11:25 @ $6), 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
KNOWING (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (11:00 @ $6), 12:25, 1:45, 3:25, 4:25, 6:25, 7:25, 9:25, 10:25
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) [CC] (11:00 @ $6), 1:45, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (11:35 @ $6), 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
WATCHMEN (R) (11:15 @ $6), 2:45, 6:15, 9:45
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) (11:05 @ $6), 12:05, 1:30, 2:30, 4:05, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00
FRIDAY THE 13TH (2009) (R) 7:40, 10:05
CORALINE (PG) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10 *3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES*
TAKEN (PG13) (11:30 @ $6), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

AMC SELECT
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph

AMC SELECT
BROTHERS AT WAR (R) ✓ 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45
THE CLASS (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
MILK (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
THE WRESTLER (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10
THE READER (R) 1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 9:40
DOUBT (PG13) 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.

WATCHMEN (R) (11:45 @ $6), 3:20, 7:00, 10:30

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center

DIGITAL 3D
JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 10:25, 12:45, 2:40

DIGITAL PRESENTATION
HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) 4:45, 7:55, 10:50

DUPLICITY (PG13) ✓ (10:30 @ $6), 12:00, 1:30, 2:45, 4:20, 5:40, 7:20, 8:45, 10:15, 11:40, 1:00
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ (10:05, 11:20 @ $6), 12:35, 1:55, 3:00, 4:30, 5:45, 7:05, 8:15, 9:45, 10:45, 12:30
KNOWING (PG13) ✓ (10:15, 11:30 @ $6), 1:15, 2:30, 4:15, 5:30, 7:15, 8:30, 10:10, 11:30, 12:55
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) ✓ (9:35 @ $6), 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
MISS MARCH (R) ✓ 8:20, 10:35, 12:50
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ✓ (9:00, 10:00, 11:25 @ $6), 12:25, 1:50, 2:55, 4:35, 5:35, 7:00, 8:05, 9:30, 10:30, 11:55
WATCHMEN (R) 12:05, 3:35, 7:10, 10:55
WATCHMEN (R) [D] [CC] 9:35 PM
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) 5:55
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) (10:50 @ $6), 1:40, 4:25, 7:00
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG) [CC] (10:50 @ $6), 1:40, 4:25, 7:00
THE INTERNATIONAL (R) 4:40, 7:25, 10:25
THE PINK PANTHER 2 (PG) (9:15, 11:35 @ $6), 2:00
TAKEN (PG13) (9:45 @ $6), 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00, 12:20

AMC SELECT
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (10:10 @ $6), 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 9:55, 12:35
THE READER (R) (9:25 @ $6), 12:20, 3:10

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jenifer and Wisconsin

DUPLICITY (PG13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) 12:15, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25
KNOWING (PG13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
WATCHMEN (R) 12:10, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

AMC SELECT
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18
9811 Washingtonian Boulevard

DIGITAL 3D
JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE (G) 12:45, 5:40, 10:15
CORALINE 3D (PG) (9:55 @ $8), 3:00, 7:45

DUPLICITY (PG13) ✓ (9:30, 10:50 @ $6), 12:35, 1:55, 3:40, 5:05, 7:10, 8:30, 10:20, 11:15
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ (10:35 @ $6), 12:00, 1:35, 3:00, 4:25, 5:40, 7:15, 8:15, 9:50, 10:45
KNOWING (PG13) ✓ (10:00, 11:15 @ $6), 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 8:15, 10:00, 11:10
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) ✓ (9:40 @ $6), 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 7:05, 8:45, 9:50, 11:20
MISS MARCH (R) ✓ 10:10 PM
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) ✓ (10:30, 11:30 @ $6), 1:30, 2:30, 4:35, 5:30, 7:30, 8:20, 10:55
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) [D] [CC] ✓ (9:40 @ $6), 12:30, 3:30, 6:25, 9:05
WATCHMEN (R) (10:45 @ $6), 12:50, 2:15, 4:30, 5:50, 8:00, 9:30
FIRED UP (PG13) (11:45 @ $6), 2:10, 4:45
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) (10:55 @ $6), 1:40, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15
THE INTERNATIONAL (R) 2:05, 8:05
TAKEN (PG13) (10:25 @ $6), 1:05, 3:25, 5:50, 8:10, 10:45

AMC SELECT
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (10:45 @ $6), 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:40
GRAN TORINO (R) (11:20 @ $6), 5:10, 10:55

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda

DUPLICITY (PG13) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:35
KNOWING (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
WATCHMEN (R) 9:40 PM

AMC SELECT
THE READER (R) 1:40, 4:25, 7:05

✓-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons [CC] - Closed Captioning · [D] - Descriptive Video Service

Times for Friday, March 20, 2009

WeekendPass makes the weekend pulse.

Every Thursday in Express.

A publication of The Washington Post

XX143gC 3x4

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

SATURDAY, APRIL 4th, 2009

Keely's District Boxing & Youth Center
BLACK TIE GALA
Gala includes: Dinner, Silent Auction, and Youth Champion Award

Omni Shoreham Hotel
Regency Ballroom
2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, DC 2009

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

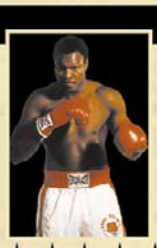
MAIN EVENT:

KEELY'S BOXING TEAM
VS. NORTHERN IRELAND BOXING TEAM
YOUTH CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

Live Performances by Scythian Immigrant Road Show
& Roger Chapman and The Unity Projects Band

Ticket Information:
VIP: $200.00
Reception Arrival: 6:00 p.m.
General: $125.00
General Admission: 7:00 p.m.
To purchase tickets, contact:
Youth Center: 202-232-0193
Bianca Thompson: 240-593-5898
Purchase tickets online at:
www.keelysyouthcenter.com

WITH SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY
Former Heavy Weight Boxing Champions
JOE FRAZIER
&
LARRY HOLMES



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

express movie showtimes

MARYLAND

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRES at Beltway Plaza
www.Academy8theaters.com
Beltway Exit 23, W. on Greenbelt Rd.
301-220-1155
(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket
Friday-Thursday: Shows starting between 12 noon- 5 pm:
Adults $6.50, Child $6.00
Saturday: ALL SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 12 NOON ARE $5.00

LOWEST PRICES IN THE METRO AREA! NEW STADIUM SEATING/FREE PARKING

KNOWING (PG-13)
(!)11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
(!)11:20, 2:00, 4:45, 7:10, 9:50
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
(!)11:50, 2:15, 4:35, 7:20, 9:40
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R)
(!)11:40, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:40
MISS MARCH (R)
3:05, 5:10, 7:30, 9:30
WATCHMEN (R)
1:00, 5:00, 8:30
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13)
11:20, 2:00, 4:45, 7:10, 9:50
TAKEN (PG-13)
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:30
PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG)
11:00, 1:00

LANDMARK'S
BETHESDA ROW
7235 Woodmont Ave • (301) 652-7273
www.landmarktheatres.com
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
SUNSHINE CLEANING (R)
2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30
GOMORRAH (NR)
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00
THE READER (R)
1:05, 3:55, 6:45, 9:35
THE CLASS (PG-13)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05
CROSSING OVER (R)
1:30, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45
MILK (R)
1:05, 7:05
THE WRESTLER (R)
4:10, 10:15

P&G OLD GREENBELT
301-474-9744
40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
All shows before 6:00pm are $6.00
Visit us at: **pandgtheatres.com**
TWO LOVERS (R)
5:00, 7:30, 9:45

MARLOW 6 THEATRES
Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
ALL SHOWS AT $5 EVERYDAY TUESDAY!
KNOWING (PG-13)
12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:25
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
12:20, 2:25, 4:30, 6:35, 8:40, 10:40
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R)
11:35, 1:50, 4:05, 6:20, 8:35, 10:50
WATCHMEN (R)
11:45, 2:50, 6:00, 9:10
MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13)
11:30, 11:50, 1:45, 2:00, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45
STREET FIGHTER (PG-13)
4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY
7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth 301-767-9555
Visit us at: **pandgtheatres.com**
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
3:15, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45

VIRGINIA

PHOENIX THEATRES WORLDGATE 9
Exit 10, Dulles Access Toll Road
Centreville Rd., Herndon 703-318-9290
Bargain Matinees Daily before 6
Advance Ticketing Available at
www.PhoenixTheatres.com
Bargain Tuesday - $5 admission!

KNOWING (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
DUPLICITY (PG-13)
12:30, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)
11:40, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:55
MISS MARCH (R)
12:00
THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R)
11:50, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 10:15
WATCHMEN (R)
11:30, 2:50, 6:20, 9:40
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
12:40, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50
TYLER PERRY'S: MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13)
2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:20
TAKEN (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30

WeekendPass
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ALEXANDRIA
www.oldtowntheater.com
815 1/2 King Street 703-683-8888
Fine Dining Beer & Wine
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
5:00, 7:00, 9:00
DUPLICITY (PG-13)
5:00, 7:30, 10:00

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE
9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com
THE GREAT BUCK HOWARD (PG)
10:05, 12:30, 2:45, 4:55, 7:20, 9:20
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R)
9:45, 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 9:40
DUPLICITY (PG-13)
9:55, 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10
THE CLASS (PG-13)
10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:40, 10:05
TWO LOVERS (R)
10:00, 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 8:00, 10:00
GRAN TORINO (R)
9:50, 12:00, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30

DISTRICT

LANDMARK'S
E street CINEMA
E St. at 11th St. NW • (202) 452-7672
www. landmarktheatres.com
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10
THE EDGE OF LOVE (R)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50, 12:10
MILK (R)
12:40, 6:50, 11:15
BALLERINA (NR)
3:20, 5:00, 9:30
THE GREAT BUCK HOWARD (PG)
12:55, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00, 12:05
THE CLASS (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
THE READER (R)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:25
FIGHT CLUB (R)
Midnight Madness Series Feature
12:00 AM
AMARCORD (R)
12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:15
2 LOVERS (R)
2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 9:55, 12:15

PHOENIX THEATRES UNION STATION 9
Metro's Red Line
202-842-4455
Bargain Matinees Daily Before 6
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Classifieds

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Washington, DC

Duties include analyze & reconcile various general ledger accounts, post & reconcile investment activity, accounts payable, research & adjust all open items, setup & post prepaids & fixed assets in Symitar, reconcile ATM activity, research & review all plastic card fraud, process daily credit card account duties & assist w/daily backup procedures. Accounting or Finance deg pref'd. Please email resume to **careers@doifcu.org**

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- **Internet Sales Manager**
- **Finance Manager**

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EEO/AA

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Accounting

The Washington Post is seeking a Supervisor for our Financial Accounting department. The primary responsibilities of this position include supervising Staff Accountants; recording, reviewing, monitoring and analyzing elements of Advertising and Circulation revenue and expense; assisting in the preparation of the periodic financial reporting package; developing automated methods for collections of financial data; assisting with the implementation of various systems and reconciling various general ledger accounts.

Minimum requirements include:

Qualified candidates must have a business or accounting degree, a CPA, a minimum of 3 years public accounting or relevant industry experience.

Getting Results - research, analyze, and interpret data to make sound recommendations based on those analyses; evaluate and revise existing procedures to adapt to new requirements.

Technical Knowledge and Skills - knowledge of and ability to reconcile general ledger accounts; PC knowledge and proficiency in Microsoft Office programs; advance knowledge in Excel required; experience with Oracle Financials and SAP preferred.

Initiating Action - ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced environment; ability to identify problems and develop and implement solutions; ability to see the "big picture" and work through both strategic and tactical issues and opportunities.

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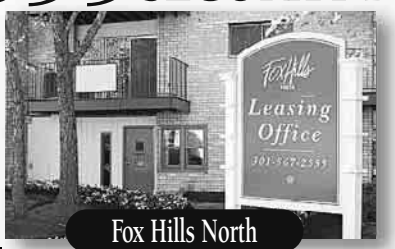

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Look out

TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

INSIDE

Rihanna, Chris Brown take a break | 34

Blog Log: NCAAs are best time of year | 32

Discussions: Fisher on AIG flap and Fenty | 32

ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

COMMON CREED: Greg Epstein, left, the humanist chaplain at Harvard University, talks with students after a group meeting.

Mass of Nonbelievers

Lifestyles

Humanists find ways to connect through secular communities

The monthly schedule is church-like, with its parenting classes, guest speakers and small group meetings to hash out shared beliefs. But God isn't part of this Cambridge congregation.

Greg Epstein, the humanist chaplain at Harvard University, is building a God-free model of community that he hopes helps humanists increase in numbers and influence.

Epstein sees potential in research showing that there are more people with no religion. In the latest American Religious Identification Survey, released this month, 15 percent of respondents in 2008 said they had no religion, compared to 8.2 percent in 1990. Epstein thinks that group includes large numbers of people who are humanists but have never identified themselves that way and can be reached.

> "What we're doing here has got to grow even more."
>
> **GREG EPSTEIN**, HUMANIST CHAPLAIN

At the same time, there is broader acceptance of those with no faith, as indicated by President Obama's mention of "nonbelievers" in his inaugural address, Epstein said.

Definitions of humanism vary. Generally, humanists reject belief in the supernatural and are guided by reason, experience and compassion for others. Epstein defines the philosophy as a commitment to living ethical, personally fulfilling lives while serving the greater good.

Epstein wants to plant local humanist centers nationwide that perform many of the community-building functions of a church, but in service of the humanist creed. He will promote his idea as he tours the country to promote his book, "Good Without God," which is scheduled to be published by HarperCollins later this year. Epstein will receive assistance and funding from groups such as the American Humanist Association and the Secular Student Alliance, which have chapters they hope to strengthen and multiply.

"There are so many millions of people out there who basically share our views, that we've got room for everybody," Epstein said. "What we're doing here has got to grow even more."

FAITH IN A MOVEMENT: Humanist students hold a meeting at Harvard University.

FREE OF FAITH

8.2% of respondents in the 1990 American Religious Identification Survey said they had no religion.

15% of respondents in the 2008 American Religious Identification Survey said they had no religion.

Raised as a Reform Jew, Epstein studied Taoism and Buddhism before he became a humanist. He earned a master's degree in Judaic studies from the University of Michigan and a master's of theological studies from Harvard Divinity School. In 2005, he was ordained as a rabbi by the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism. The movement says it combines reason, human experience, Jewish culture and ethical insights from Jewish tradition.

While many humanists reject anything that hints at organized religion, Epstein is freely borrowing from it — from the "small group" format familiar in evangelical churches to calling his group a "congregation."

Paul Kurtz, founder of the Council for Secular Humanism, disagrees with that approach, saying humanists are building secular communities that show people don't need religion to get together "in a joyful mood and do good works."

Jenni Acosta, 36, a humanist from Newton, Mass., who is part of the Harvard humanist parenting group, said the group gives her needed support, and shows her 6-year-old and 10-year-old daughters that other children are being raised the same way.

"I think it's reassuring to all of us to know that we're there for each other and there's other examples of people doing it," Acosta said.

JAY LINDSAY (AP)

Look out Online

express nightout >> EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

WEEKEND PASS

A Digital Slice

Did you miss yesterday's Weekend Pass supplement, pointing you to all the cool stuff to do in the D.C. area? No worries, Public Transportation Rider! Log on to Expressnightout.com to catch up on everything, including our cover story on singer-songwriter John Vanderslice. | ONLINE NOW

DVD

Teens With Teeth

At the stroke of midnight tonight, the teenage vampire phenomenon known as "Twilight" hits the stores. There will be DVD release parties in local stores, and kids will be scratching to get their paws on the two-disc special edition, but Ewa Beaujon already nabbed one and has a review. | ONLINE NOW

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Thank You for Being a Friend

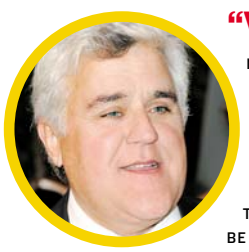
Everybody's on Facebook these days — including Express. And if you join our fan page, you can access special features, read a feed of our blog posts and be among the first to know about our events. Just go to Expressnightout.com/facebook to join our merry band. | ONLINE NOW

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA TO BE JAY LENO'S GUEST ON 'THE TONIGHT SHOW'?

YES 72% | **NO** 28%



"Why not? For the Jay Leno fans who would never watch a news show, this might be the only way that he can get his message across. I say, with what's going on with the economy, he should use any way he can."

COMMENTER NANCY, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA TO BE JAY LENO'S GUEST ON 'THE TONIGHT SHOW'?

"I would be more impressed if he went on C-SPAN's morning call-in show and actually took calls from real people."

COMMENTER STR, WHO ADDED, "OF COURSE, THIS WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE THE PHONE SYSTEM TO MELT DOWN FROM ALL THE PEOPLE TRYING TO CALL."

"Sure, why not? It's just one more tool that he has to reach a broad (and young) audience. Not everyone participates in traditional media forms."

COMMENTER CAN'T WAIT TO WATCH, WHO ADDED, "BESIDES, IT'S WORKED FOR HIM IN THE PAST. WHY STOP NOW?"

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER

Blog LOG

"For many people, from now until April 6 marks the pinnacle of the entire sports-related year, or even just the entire year."

JUXTAEXPOSED.COM, A UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FAN, WAS GLAD FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE START OF THE NCAA TOURNAMENT THURSDAY.

JOCHEN LUEBKE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"It scares the hell out of me to think that you can seemingly bonk your head, walk away from it and then be dead within 24 hours."

DEFAMER.COM IS HAVING SOME TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING HOW ACTRESS NATASHA RICHARDSON DIED AFTER A SEEMINGLY BENIGN SKIING ACCIDENT MONDAY NEAR MONTREAL.

"Isn't it ironic how just when things start to go great in your life, they all start to fall apart again? Things are finally falling into place, and then — BAM."

MYPRETTYPENNIES.WORDPRESS.COM JUST MOVED INTO A NEW APARTMENT, HAS A GREAT BOYFRIEND AND IS MAKING PROGRESS AT HER JOB. BUT SHE JUST FOUND OUT HER MOTHER HAS BREAST CANCER.

"LAST WEEKEND, a truck showed up and they started cramming it full of their stuff. On Sunday, the house apparently empty, the entire family returned armed with cleaning supplies. It doesn't sound strange or remarkable or noteworthy. We found out why on Monday, when the foreclosure sign went up."

RUDECACTUS.COM ADMIRED A FAMILY IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD WHO HAD A ENOUGH PRIDE AND DECENCY TO CLEAN THEIR HOUSE BEFORE IT WAS FORECLOSED ON.

Discussions

The Local Report

Post Metro columnist **MARC FISHER** was online Thursday and talked about the AIG bonuses, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty's foreign trips, his brackets and more.

Your thoughts on the AIG situation?

Tax the bonus babies at 100 percent, but first name them. You may have noticed that a New York judge yesterday ordered Bank of America to release information about individual bonuses given to employees at Merrill Lynch just before the bank bought the brokerage company. So, it is indeed possible to use the law to smoke out these greedheads. That's what the president ought to be doing.

Regarding the retrocession of D.C. into Maryland — no offense, but we [in Maryland] really don't want you. It's not just people in Baltimore who would be opposed to this. We're having enough trouble balancing our own budget without trying to work with D.C.'s finances. I'd be willing to bet, too, that a majority of people in the District wouldn't want to be Marylanders, either.

You're probably right on both fronts, but that doesn't mean it doesn't make sense as a concept and as a fairly elegant solution to the voting rights problem. This is exactly the kind of situation that justifies having a republic rather than a direct democracy — but then your representatives have to develop the spine to do the right thing.

Fenty was on Channel 4, and Barbara Harrison asked him questions people sent in about his travel to Dubai and China. Not one question asking "why" he went. Do we know why? He seemed evasive on the other questions he was asked and he made it all sound like it's the normal way of running a business.

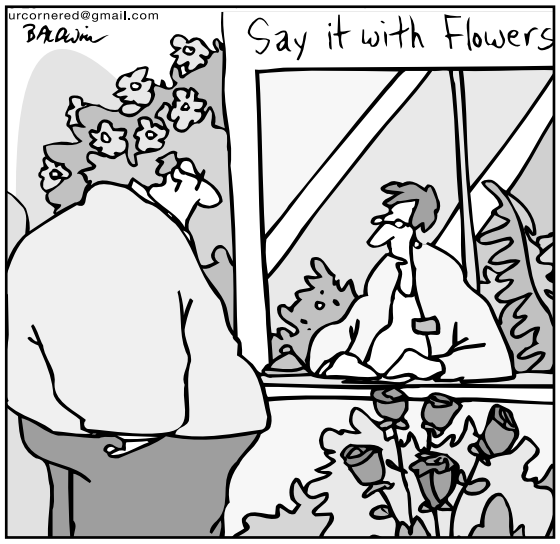
Initially, he said it was a place he'd always wanted to visit. Then he said it was none of anyone's business because it was a private, family trip. The mayor has been unusually snippy and unhelpful on this matter — this is the only issue I can recall on which he seems not to care how he comes off to the voters. It's very strange and certainly worthy of more reporting.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Post college basketball writer and blogger Eric Prisbell discusses the opening weekend of the NCAA tournament at 11 a.m. | **washingtonpost.com/discussions.**

Look out

Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*

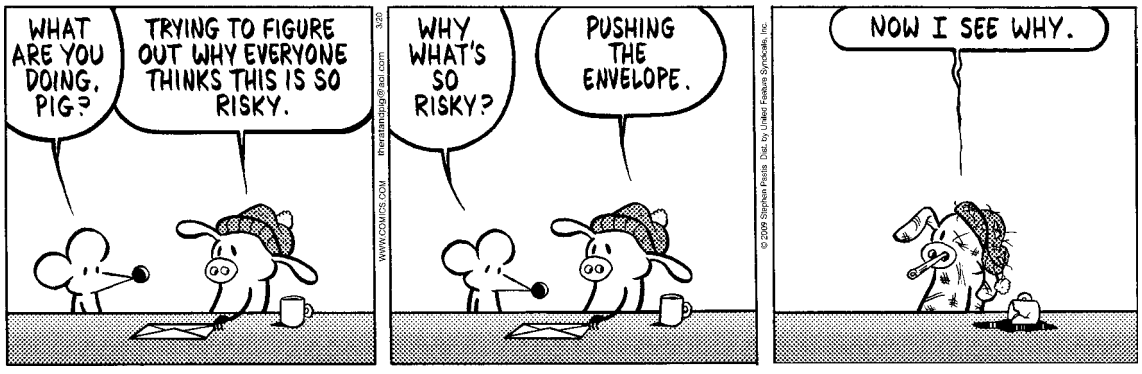
Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*



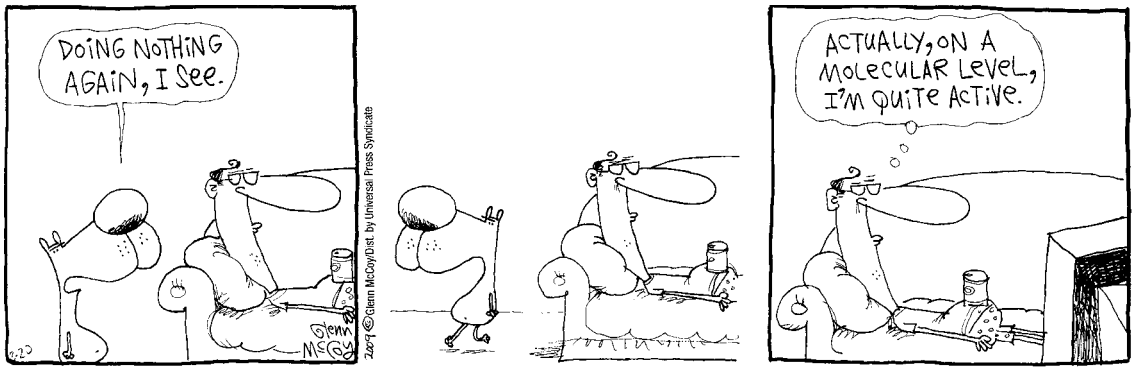
"If you can't think of anything nice to say, how about a gift certificate?"

Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*

Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*



The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You're going to want to watch over those who are working with you, for you and under you. Make sure things are going according to plan.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) As soon as you get the information you've been seeking, you'll want to spring into action. Make sure that there are no obstacles in your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You're in the mood to cut loose, let things go and enjoy yourself a little more than usual. Be sure that you've tended to the small details.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may have to give a friend or loved one some unpleasant news. You can speak the truth and still be nurturing and supportive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may find yourself hemmed in a bit emotionally. Resist the temptation to break free; any knee-jerk reactions can prove hazardous.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may have fallen a bit behind again, and as you work to catch up, it's a good time to make plans for getting ahead ASAP.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Work you do with friends can prove quite enjoyable — and, even better, quite profitable. Make sure that you're working as a team; avoid giving orders.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The more you empower those around you, the more you are likely to gain on all fronts. Be willing to do what you are asking others to do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You and a friend can make great plans together — even if you are still quite far apart. You can prove that the world gets smaller every day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're feeling bogged down in the details of a certain plan — but remember that soon you'll be soaring as your creativity takes wing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You don't want to be saddled with someone else's burden. Make it clear that you're willing to do only so much, and no more.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Seek the most direct route to a chosen goal. You needn't walk over anyone; chances are you're the only one going that direction.

Letters

Get the Facts on the Circus

MY JAW DROPPED when I read Carol Ansell's March 19 letter, "Circus Animals Treated Fine." Clearly, she has not educated herself about what happens in the animal entertainment industry. If finding that "child inside" means turning a blind eye to animals' sufferings, then I'm happy to continue viewing the circus through the eyes of an adult.

—KATIE MCHENRY
Arlington, Va.

Correction:

The Post Points daily code was mistakenly left out of Thursday's Express. The daily code was HC.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," is first published in book form.

1899 Martha M. Place of Brooklyn, N.Y., becomes the first woman to be executed in the electric chair, at Sing Sing, for the murder of her stepdaughter.

1985 Libby Riddles of Teller, Alaska, becomes the first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race.

1997 The Swiss National Bank confirms that it helped other neutral European countries buy millions of dollars worth of Nazi gold during World War II.

2004 The U.S. military charges six soldiers with abusing inmates at Abu Ghraib prison.

NIKKI KAHN/TWP

The cabin from "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

PostPoints DAILY CODE UP

Look out | People

AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Gunn can smell crazy from miles away.

SIXTH SENSE

The Only Person Tim Gunn Hates Turns Out to Be Crazy

KENLEY COLLINS, a season five finalist on "Project Runway," was charged Tuesday with two counts of assault after allegedly hitting a male in the head and face with a computer. TMZ.com reported that the man was Collins' ex-fiance. (EXPRESS)

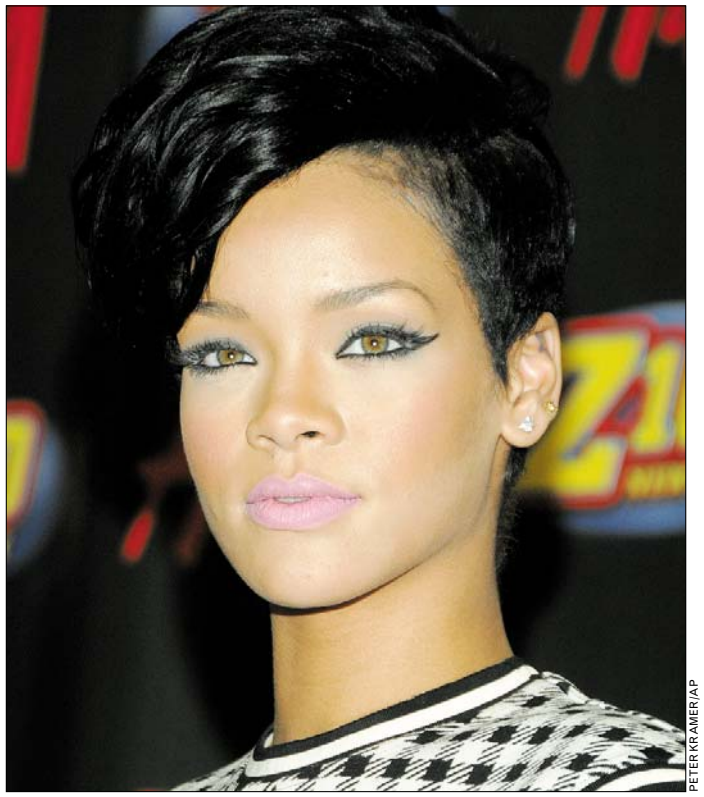
COMFORT

Tenn. Assures Singer It Doesn't Give a Rat's Behind

ALEXIS GRACE says her elimination from "American Idol" during country music week is a betrayal of her Southern roots. Grace said Thursday that she feels like she let down her home state of Tennessee. (AP)

expressnightout

➜ Find the latest celebrity news and photo evidence of stars' sordid lives at WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM.



PETER KRAMER/AP

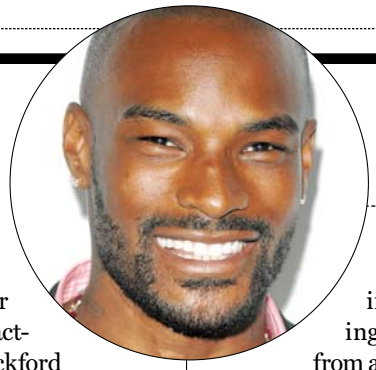
TIME-OUTS

Leaving 'Disturbia'?

The public can (almost) breathe a collective sigh of relief — reports say that **RIHANNA** and **CHRIS BROWN** are cooling off. According to People.com, a source close to the couple reported that although the pair reconciled shortly after the domestic dispute heard round the world, "They are taking some time off; they haven't broken up, but they are taking a break." (EXPRESS)

THREATS

'I Stand Still And Look Good. Please Don't Take That Away'



If you have any other skills, you're not welcome!

He's crossed over from modeling to acting, but Tyson Beckford says he wishes actors and musicians wouldn't jump into the business. Beckford, host of Bravo's "Make Me a Supermodel," says that when they do, it takes jobs away from models. "You have to do a lot of tweaking and airbrushing to get the same from a celebrity that you would get from a model. A lot of celebrities — they're not a size 2, but the designers want exposure, so they're willing to dress an actor to get on the cover." (AP)

HATERS

Jealousy Loves Company

UCLA's graduating class of 2009 has banded together to boycott the schools' selection for graduation speaker, **JAMES FRANCO**. The "Milk" star graduated from UCLA in 2008. According to "Access Hollywood," students have formed a Facebook group where they comment aggressively about the selection, saying: "Clearly, this is ridiculous. Anyone who has been in his classes knows he is an average student at UCLA." (EXPRESS)

DISGRACE

Mother of 6 Turns Out to Be a Gun-Totin' Hooligan

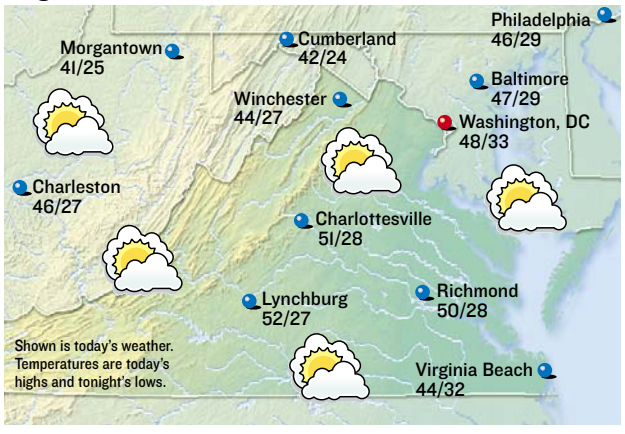
A TV ad showing actress **ANGELINA JOLIE** firing weapons must not be shown because it could be seen as condoning gun violence, Britain's Advertising Standards Authority said Wednesday. The ad is for the DVD version of the 2008 action flick "Wanted." (AP)

What will Brad think of you now, Angie?

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Clouds and sun	Clear to partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Times of clouds and sun	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy
48°	33°	58° / 36°	59° / 41°	57° / 40°	55° / 43°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2009

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	59°
Low	48°
Normal high	57°
Normal low	38°
Average humidity	72%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.04"
Month to date	0.87"
Normal month to date	2.24"
Year to date	3.90"
Last year to date	8.26"
Normal year to date	8.08"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: **washingtonpost.com/weather**

Regional Forecast

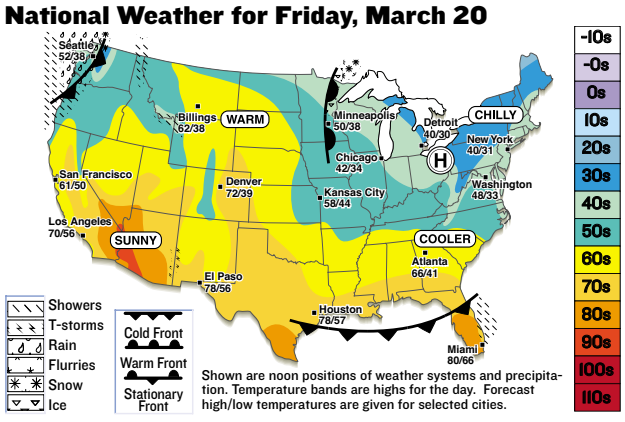
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny. High 48. Wind north 8-16 mph. Tonight, mainly clear. Low 33. Wind north 4-8 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:12 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:20 p.m.
Moonrise today	3:57 a.m.
Moonset today	1:29 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Mar 26	Apr 2	Apr 9	Apr 17

National Weather for Friday, March 20



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	66/41/s	63/40/s
Boston	40/27/pc	48/32/s
Chicago	42/34/pc	55/36/c
Dallas	70/54/pc	74/59/pc
Denver	72/39/pc	71/40/pc
Honolulu	79/69/s	81/70/s
Los Angeles	70/56/pc	66/54/c
Miami	80/66/pc	78/63/pc
New York City	40/31/pc	53/37/s
Orlando	78/57/pc	73/54/pc
Seattle	52/38/r	51/39/c

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	45/38/s	52/41/s
Athens	57/49/pc	55/45/r
Berlin	42/32/pc	49/36/pc
Buenos Aires	82/66/pc	86/70/s
Calgary	52/26/pc	46/20/c
Dublin	52/39/pc	54/41/pc
Geneva	50/30/s	51/31/s
Moscow	36/28/sn	36/23/sn
Rome	52/36/sh	48/36/pc
Sydney	82/61/s	78/64/s
Tokyo	57/45/r	58/49/s

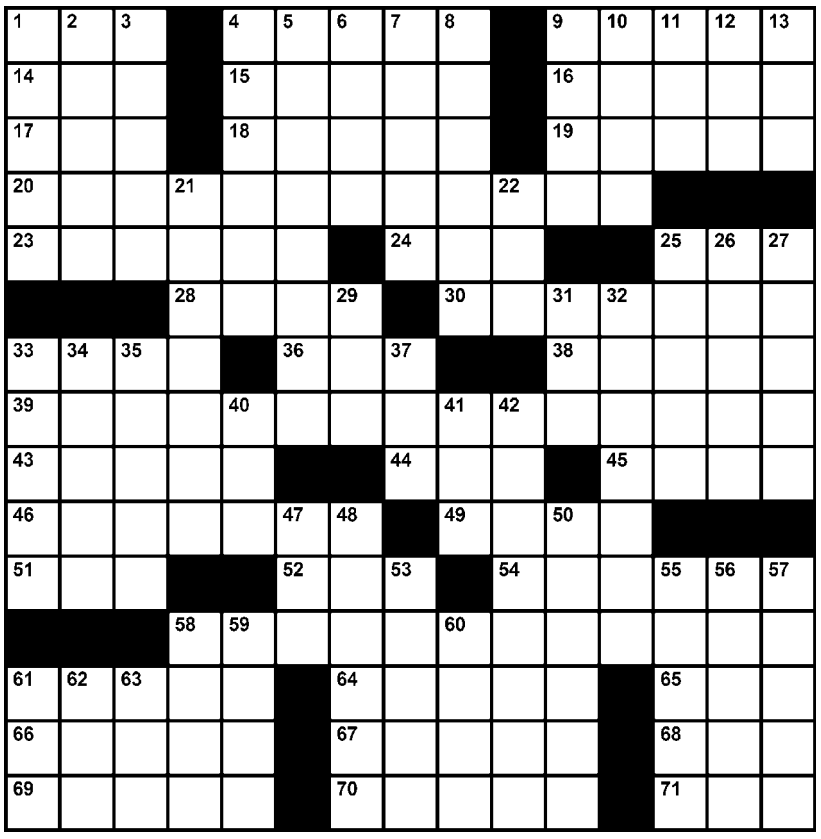
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Puzzles | Look out

CROSSWORD | JOINING THE BAND

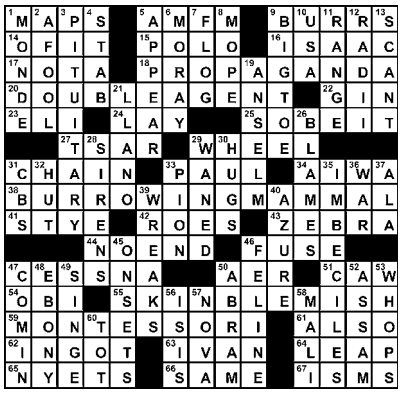
ACROSS
1 Conversation fillers
4 Milan's La ___
9 Scarlett O'Hara, for one
14 Word in brackets
15 Weighty books
16 Time partner
17 "Little Miss Muffet sat ___"
18 Bakers, really
19 Frightened into submission
20 Dated "Darn!"
23 Words with "on TV"
24 Campus at Columbus, briefly
25 Disencumber
28 Child's play (with "a")
30 Fried Japanese dish
33 Skirt shape
36 Catch
38 Hammerin' Hank
39 Change of heart?
43 Airwaves medium
44 "Out, varmints!"
45 Choice word
46 Less lenient
49 Source of a blast?
51 It adds 10 to 8?
52 Caribbean liquor
54 Reciprocal
58 Thanksgiving decoration
61 Fabled fabulist
64 Symbol of strength
65 Word repeated before "away"
66 Not poetry
67 Spanish diacritic
68 Blind rage
69 Not leftover
70 More than sometimes
71 Rejoinder to "'tain't!"

DOWN
1 Home of the brave, briefly
2 Cheerleaders' wear
3 A heap
4 Swiped
5 Formal agreement
6 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer
7 Dirge tempo
8 Preceder of many a goal
9 Forth partner
10 They're gigantic in Hollywood
11 Order partner
12 Varnished truth
13 Week finish?
21 Hopelessness
22 Type of ball or card
25 Bucolic
26 Removes clotheslines?
27 Divine poet?
29 Botch a birdie
31 Where you may be given some latitude?
32 Color range
33 Vaulter's apparatus
34 Wax eloquent
35 Dandy poet?
37 Vacuum cleaner receptacle, often
40 Alternative to smoking?
41 Tuck partner
42 Bull rush?
47 Blow it
48 Seeks solace from
50 Dour
53 Recurring theme
55 Ill-suited
56 Arcade game pioneer
57 Ancient instruments
58 It may wind up in your backyard
59 Unsettled, as questions
60 Sensed
61 King Kong, for one
62 Distinctive time
63 Elbow- bender



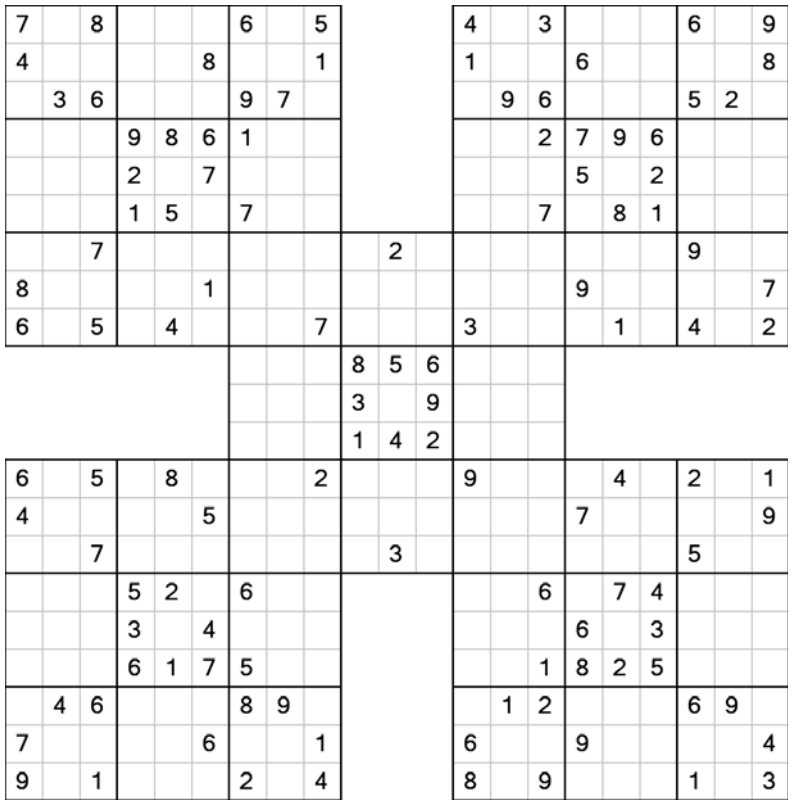
EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

Yesterday's Solution



SAMURAI SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.



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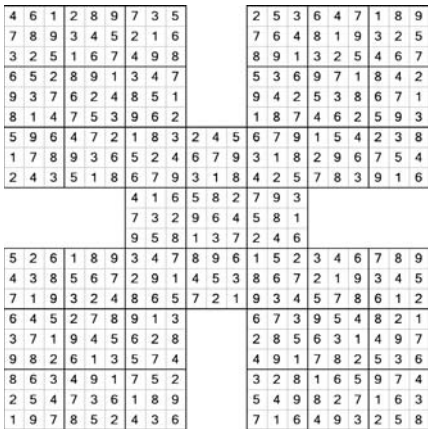
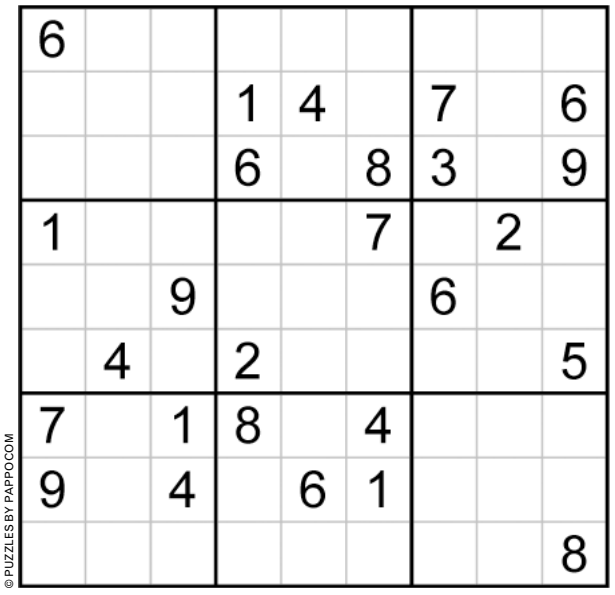
Last Week's Solution



CLASSIC SUDOKU | HARD



© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Yesterday's Solution

5	8	4	9	3	7	2	1	6
7	2	9	6	1	5	8	3	4
6	1	3	8	4	2	7	5	9
8	3	7	1	2	4	9	6	5
4	6	2	3	5	9	1	7	8
1	9	5	7	6	8	4	2	3
2	4	6	5	9	1	3	8	7
3	7	1	4	8	6	5	9	2
9	5	8	2	7	3	6	4	1

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Su|do|ku?
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THE FIVE BASIC RULES OF RENTING | E7

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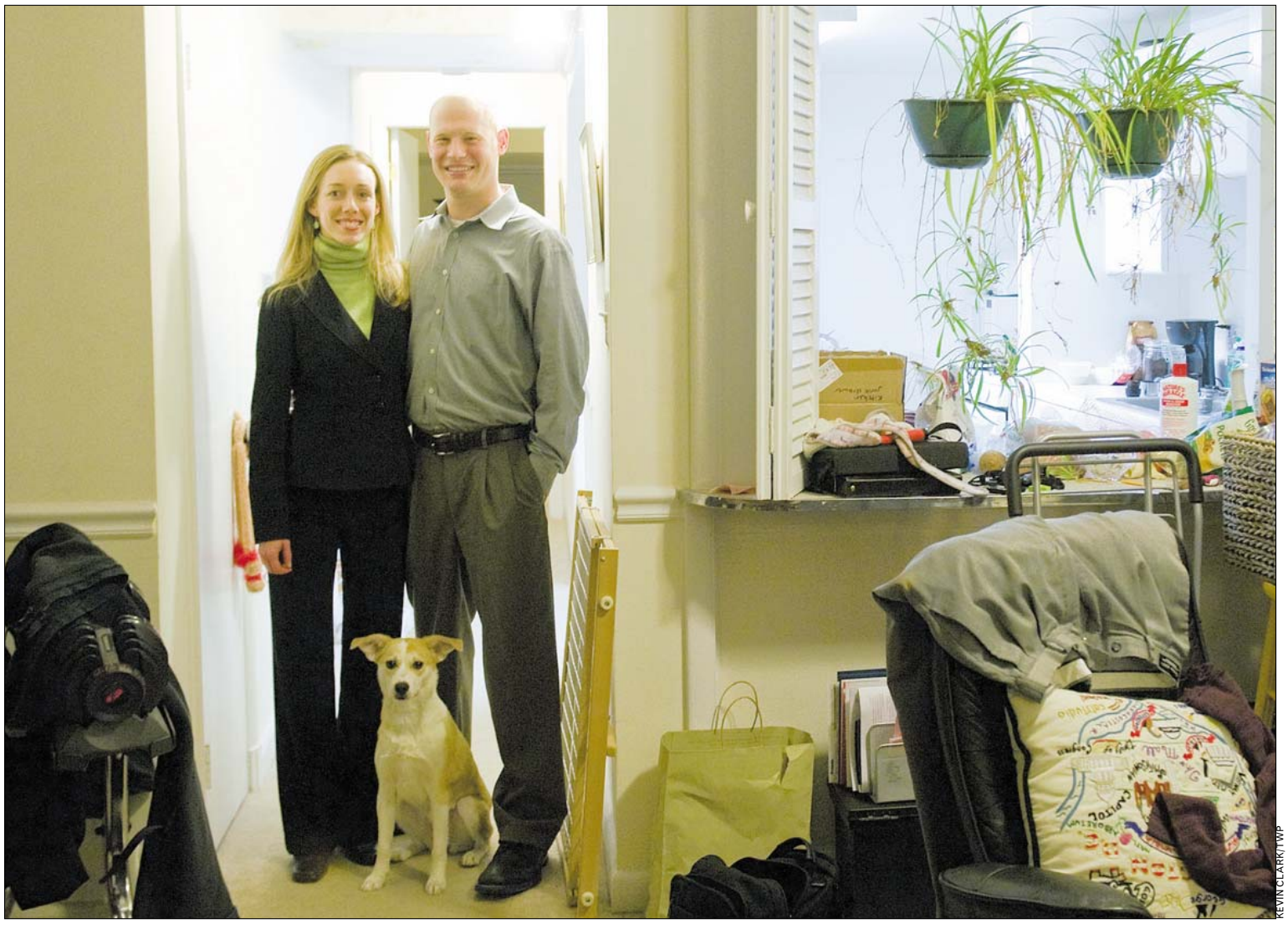

KEVIN CLARK/TWP

THREE ROOMS, EIGHT LEGS: Engaged couple Christopher Hertz and Colleen Fahey (and their dog, Pippi) outgrew the Dupont Circle apartment he'd lived in for four years.

The Space Race

Many longtime renters are wary of committing to a mortgage in this economy

IT TOOK FOUR years and an unprecedented real estate downturn for Christopher Hertz to get off the fence and buy a house.

In the interim, the 32-year-old's search for the right property at the right price became nothing short of an obsession. He visited at least one open house a month. He researched the local market diligently, using an Excel spreadsheet to track the homes that interested him. He saw hundreds of places and made some offers, but all of them were rejected as too low.

Hertz held on to the lease of his Dupont apartment, a month-to-month deal he signed in 2005.

So, Hertz held on to the lease of his Dupont Circle apartment, a month-to-month deal he had signed in 2005 with the intention of staying for a few months.

Then, Hertz said, as the economic news grew increasingly dire last year and he expanded his search out of the District into the suburbs, he began seeing more opportunities. He got engaged. And last month, he and his fiancee, Colleen Fahey, made an offer on a three-bedroom, three-bathroom red-brick rambler in Bethesda. The owner, who received several offers, accepted the couple's bid. The two plan to move in in April.

The overriding factor for mak-

CONTINUED ON E2

"I ASKED ONE WOMAN, 'HEY, DO GARDEN?' AND SHE SAID, 'I WISH I GARDENED, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE SPACE.' IT'S A REAL BARRIER." E13

Transitioning

CONTINUED FROM E1

ing the commitment after such a long hunt is the price. The house was listed at $739,000, and Hertz and Fahey's successful offer was $725,000. That was a good deal for a home so close to a Metro station and downtown Bethesda, and for its size and condition, Hertz said.

> "I did not feel comfortable buying, and I still had the opportunity that prices were falling."
>
> **CHRISTOPHER HERTZ**, RENTER

"I did not feel comfortable buying, and I still had the opportunity that prices were going to keep falling," Hertz said, explaining why he spent so many years looking. "Well, I have been vindicated."

KEVIN CLARK (TWP)

JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE GARDEN: Sellers accepted Hertz and Fahey's offer of $725, 000 on this house in Bethesda.

As home values continue their historic descent, understanding the psychology of home shoppers such as Hertz has become increasingly important for economists and housing analysts searching for a bottom. Buying a home has become much cheaper than it was during the years of the boom.

But just as speculative mania and a fear of losing out seemed to grip buyers during the housing bubble, the opposite appears to be occurring now amid the bust. Many would-be buyers fear getting caught in the downdraft and are waiting out the market in hopes of the best possible deal.

"People keep calling a bottom: for the stock market, for the housing market, it seems like every month there is a new bottom," said Rom Brafman, a behavioral psychologist and co-author of the book "Sway: The Irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior."

Potential buyers think: "Why don't I just wait? Because maybe

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KEVIN CLARK (TWP

TRANSITION TIME: When Colleen Fahey, Hertz's fiancee, joined the house hunt, the couple agreed to look outside the District. Some renters are timid about purchasing a home when economic uncertainty is high.

this house looks like a good deal, but maybe in a couple of months the nicer home down the street will be even cheaper."

The deteriorating economy has only complicated matters. Many potential buyers are concerned about making a purchase as big as a home when job uncertainty remains so great. For those like Hertz who are willing to make a commitment, a psychological barrier must still be breached: the possibility that a home's value may decline. Housing experts said an important factor for a turnaround will come when shoppers shift to viewing a property more as a dwelling and less as an investment.

"There is, in part, a redefinition of what a home is," said Nicolas Retsinas, director of the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University. "What we may be starting to see happening is people are weighing more heavily the use value of a particular home. And they are beginning to think, 'OK, is this the place that I want — not so much to buy and sell — but is this the sort of place close to the things that I find important?'"

Retsinas said he does not think this shift in attitudes has yet occurred on a wide scale.

"We still have a legacy of buying a home as an investment, and in this environment, who would buy a home as an investment?" Retsinas said.

As time passed and his life changed, such considerations of money, love and living for the long term came into play for Hertz. A native of the Washington area, he returned to the region in 2005 after finishing business school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to start an information technology consulting firm in the District.

As a young bachelor enamored with city life, his heart was set at first on finding a condominium in Dupont Circle. He yearned for a well-lit place with plenty of space, in a boutique building of no more than four stories and fewer than 15 units. He wanted it for less than $550,000, he said in a 2007 Post story about his search.

Months became years, and Hertz settled in. When he turned 30, he began thinking about finding a townhouse in the District, a place with more room, where he might one day raise a family. He found a two-unit townhouse in Logan Circle that he figured he could afford if he rented out half of it. He made an offer. On another occasion, he bid on a Dupont Circle townhouse in need of repairs.

In both instances, the seller refused to budge, Hertz said. In general, finding sellers who were willing to negotiate on the price was difficult in the District, particularly in downtown locations, as renters remained plentiful despite the downturn, Hertz said. He began looking outside the city.

"Over four years, my life has changed, and I actually started to shift," Hertz said. "I felt the prices were softer the further you got out of the District."

Still, he did not want to go too far. He cherished his morning commute: a 20-minute walk to downtown D.C. or a two-station Metro ride. Life in the far suburbs scared him. He did not own a car. The search expanded to include Bethesda and Arlington.

> His search spanned a period in which rising prices put ownership out of reach.

His search spanned a period in which rising prices seemed to put homeownership out of reach for conservative buyers until a time when the equilibrium shifts toward owning. The National Association of Realtors said this week that the relationship between home prices and mortgage interest rates and family income is the most favorable since it began tracking affordability in 1970. Nevertheless, sales of new homes and existing homes, as well as pending home sales, declined in January. Economists blamed the dismal state of the economy as the overriding factor but said buyer psychology also comes into play.

A recent report by the real estate research firm Green Street Advisors in Newport Beach, Calif., found that the gap between the after-tax cost of a monthly mortgage payment and the cost of renting narrowed to below an 18-year average in 2008. That swings the relative cost of owning compared with renting back in favor of homeownership in some markets. In the District, Northern Virginia and the Maryland suburbs, that ratio is below its 18-year average, according to the study.

"A purchase the size of buying a house is the biggest investment most of us will ever go into," said Michael D. Larson, a real estate and interest rate analyst at Weiss Research. "If you are worried about losing your

CONTINUED ON E4

renters'guide

job or if you are going to buy a house for 20 percent down ... and then house prices continue to depreciate, then it is not going to be long before you lose your money."

Amol Singla, 32, a government contractor who rents in the District's U Street area, shares those concerns. While he feels secure in his job, the layoffs caused by the recession have unnerved him. He recently abandoned a year-and-a-half-long home hunt in the District after he could not find the right price in the U Street and Shaw neighborhoods, and after looking at several Petworth properties that he thought might lose their value in the coming decade or so. Singla said he might resume his search if prices fall an additional 10 percent.

Hertz and Fahey, in contrast, are comfortable with their decision. She became part of the search in November, once they were engaged. The place they are buying can house a family of four. It has been "incredibly well" maintained, with well-functioning appliances and a landscaped yard. And the couple are just a walk away from downtown Bethesda. It's no Dupont Circle, but it has restaurants and nightlife.

KEVIN CLARK/TWP

EYES FOR BARGAINS AND SQUIRRELS: Pippi takes Colleen Fahey and Christopher Hertz on a walk in the Dupont Circle area.

> "You kind of just get a feeling when you get into a place and it has a good vibe to it."
>
> **COLLEEN FAHEY**, HOUSE HUNTER

"It was my idea to put a bid on this particular house; I really liked that one," Fahey said. "You kind of just get a feeling when you get into a place and it has a good vibe to it."

Nonetheless, they will both miss the thrill of the hunt.

"I actually just find it an interesting hobby at this point," he said. "I am a little addicted."

"You get into search mode, and it's kind of hard to stop," she said

ALEJANDRO LAZO (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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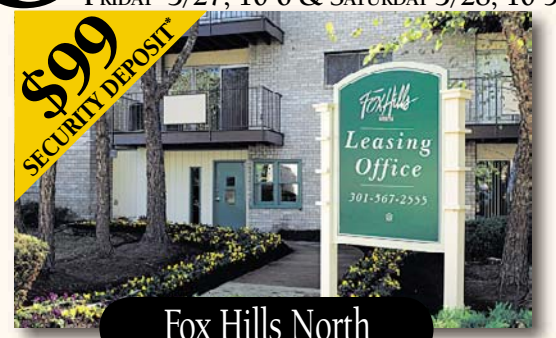

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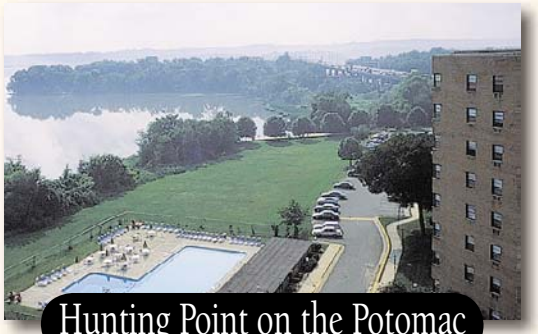

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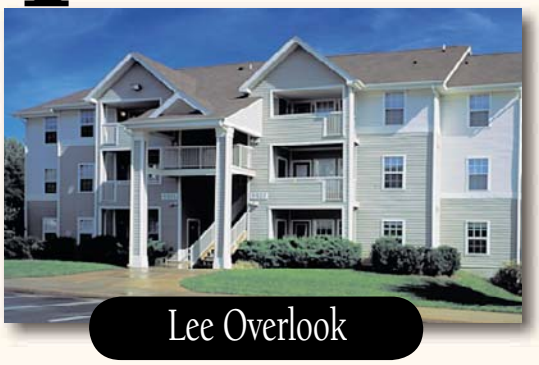

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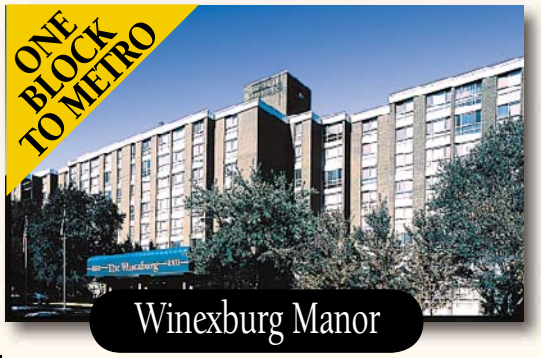

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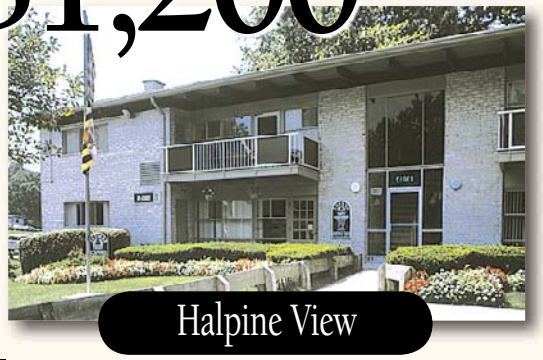

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Stop Relocation Aggravation

5 ways first-time renters can ease the transition from dorm to dominion

As you get ready to move out of Mom and Dad's or the dorm, some legwork could save you many a headache.

In many cities across the country — especially California, Florida and Arizona — it's a renters' market. Renters have more choices — from traditional apartments to single-family homes — and more bargaining power. Renters should also be prepared to deal with first-time landlords, who have decided to lease a property they can't sell in the current downturn.

Here are five tips to get you started.

SET A BUDGET

Look at your income and expenses and determine how much you can afford to pay for rent. A good rule of thumb is to spend no more than 30 percent of your monthly take-home pay on rent. Don't forget: Some landlords include utilities in the rent; some don't. Some also charge extra for parking and pets. Once you have a limit, you can start looking.

> A good rule is to spend no more than 30 percent of your monthly take-home pay on rent.

RESEARCH YOUR OPTIONS

Check Web sites such as Craigslist.com and Apartments.com, rental magazines and newspaper listings. Drive around the neighborhood you want to live in — both during the day and at night. Ask family, friends and co-workers for recommendations. Once you have a few apartments in your sights, take the time to compare living spaces, amenities and prices.

ISTOCK

BOXING DAY: Moving is never fun, but it can be made easier if you're well prepared. Set a budget, do background checks and learn what your landlord expects from you.

Inspect the common areas of a property. If the hallways and elevators are dirty or the grounds are overgrown, there's a risk the landlord will also take a long time to make any repairs.

Ask some of the residents about the landlord or property manager. You might get details you wouldn't hear otherwise, like odors from the restaurant next door or the upstairs neighbor's dog that barks all day when the owner is away.

If you're visiting apartments after work, make sure to come back during daylight, recommends Jimmi Circosta, an associate broker at Citi Habitats in New York. You can see how much natural lighting comes into the apartment instead of relying on a landlord's word.

KEEP A PRIORITIES LIST

What do you want most in your apartment? A large kitchen, a fireplace, many windows, a balcony or a big master suite? Take your pick, but determine what you could do without. And don't forget the small things that could become bigger deals if you have to live with it everyday. "Check the water pressure. That can really drive some people nuts," Circosta says.

Stroll or drive around the neighborhood. Where's the nearest supermarket, dry cleaner and pharmacy? Is the neighborhood residential or amid a bustling downtown? Go out to dinner in the area to help make sure it fits you.

"Too many times I've heard people say, 'I love the apartment, but not the neighborhood,'" Circosta says.

BACKGROUND CHECKS — YOURS AND THEIRS

Once you've made your choice, walk into the leasing office prepared. Landlords or property managers will likely require at least some form of identification, your Social Security number to pull your credit report and criminal background check, and employment information. The landlord may also ask you for a non-refundable application fee.

Some stricter landlords could ask for recent pay stubs or a letter from your employer to verify your income. In New York City, renting an apartment is akin to buying a house. Apartment owners there

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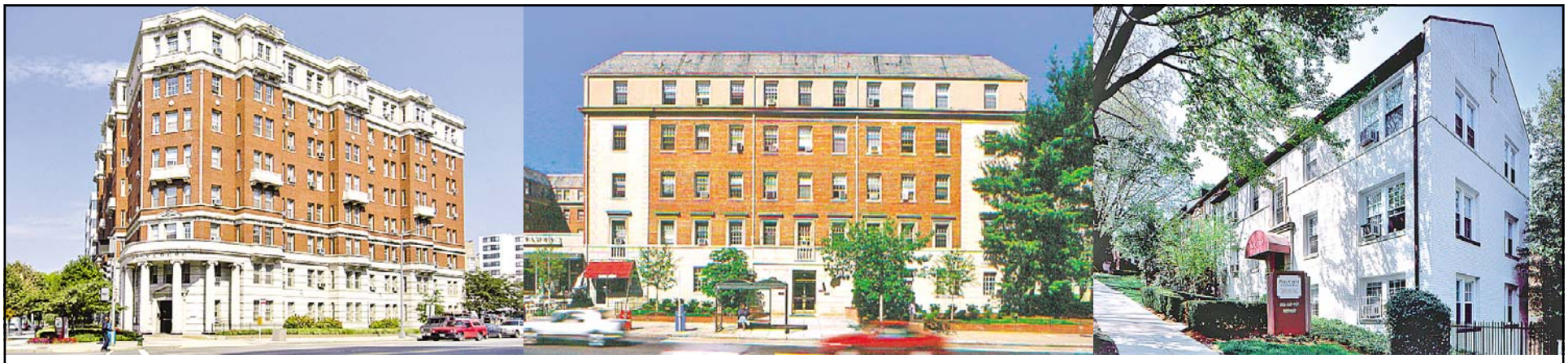

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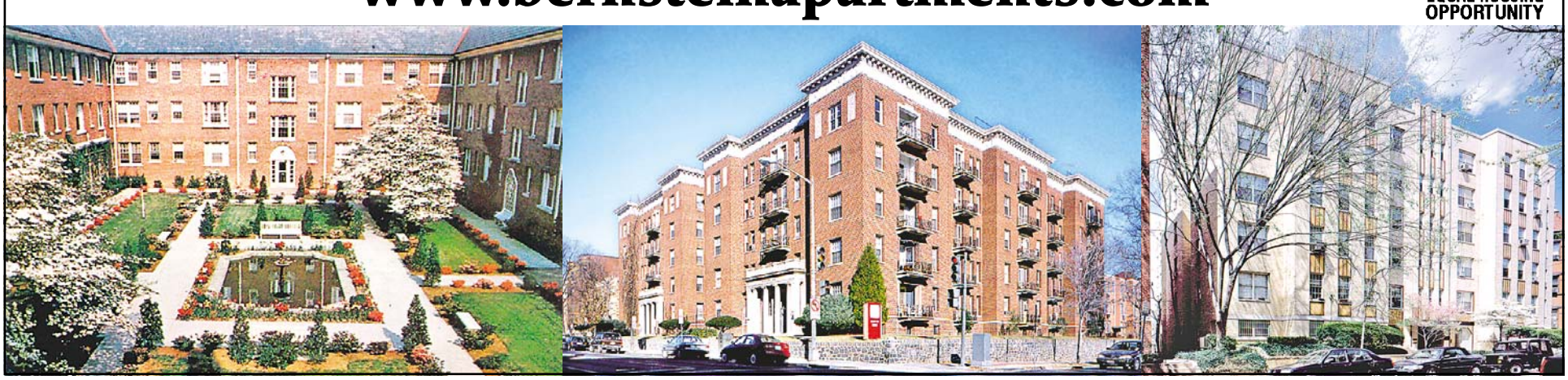

Renting 101

CONTINUED FROM E7

often ask for tax returns, the most recent bank statements, a reference letter from your current landlord and personal references.

If you're renting from an individual, you can check out his or her financial situation by sifting through district court records for any foreclosure actions, judgments or bankruptcy filings. You can also contact the local Better Business Bureau to see whether there have been any complaints filed against the landlord.

Before signing anything, ask about any manager specials that may not be advertised, suggests Richard Snyder, president of R.A. Snyder Properties in San Diego. "In the current environment that is becoming increasingly a renters' market, you're starting to see concessions such as move-in bonuses or money off the rent," he says. Or, some landlords might offer a lower rent if you sign a longer lease.

ISTOCK

PACK IT ALL IN: Once you've seen to your bank account and your lease, don't forget about your back — lift with your knees.

If you don't understand something, ask. It's better to look foolish before you sign.

BEWARE OF EXTRA CHARGES

Be aware of what's included in the rent, such as heat, water, electricity or gas. Are there any extra charges for parking or pets? What's the penalty for terminating the lease early? In what cases can the landlord keep your security deposit?

The landlord will probably ask you for the first month's rent and a security deposit, usually equal to at least one month's rent. Often, landlords ask for certified bank checks.

If you don't understand something, ask. It's better to look foolish before you sign on the dotted line than after. J.W. ELPHINSTONE (AP)

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Just a block west of where Interstate 395 dead-ends into New York Avenue in Northwest Washington, the V at City Vista recently opened its luxurious doors on what was once a fairly desolate stretch.

Now the area teems with pedestrian traffic. Safeway, a Busboys and Poets restaurant, and Results Gym, are all on the ground floor of the months-old City Vista complex, which includes the rental V at City Vista and two sister condominiums, called the K and L buildings.

Busboys and Poets at Fifth and K streets NW, the third location of the local restaurant, has become a favorite hangout for residents. "That's often where I study," law student Marsha Dixon said.

"I've been to Busboys and Poets probably four or five times in the past month," resident Michael Meuti said.

Proximity to grocery stores and other services has been a major lure for residents. The Safeway "was one of the big attractions for me," Meuti said. "And having the gym and hardware store nearby is really convenient."

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LOBBYING FOR FAVOR: The stylish building has business and fitness centers, too.

Dixon said: "It doesn't get any more convenient that this, with Chinatown and Judiciary Square so close. I have a car, but I try not to use it often."

Increasing development in the neighborhood north of Massachusetts Avenue has made parking even during non-event times scarce, so residents who have cars need to pony up the $200 per month for a parking space in the underground garage.

But the location means a car may not be required.

Resident Steve Drennan commutes to work in Manassas by car, but "when I park my car on Friday night, I don't see it again until Monday morning," he said.

Being close to I-395 means his commute doesn't require navigating city streets. "The location is good near Chinatown. I thought that was perfect because the Third

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renters'guide

Street tunnel is one block away," Drennan said.

The V, as it is called, opened in the fall. It's the newest luxury high-rise in the rapidly transforming NoMa/Mount Vernon neighborhood just north of Gallery Place and Chinatown. The blocks immediately around the complex are still largely empty lots or construction sites.

For now, residents on the lower floors of the north side of the seven-story building have a view, even if it's just of New York Avenue. The upper floors look north over the historic rowhouses of the Mount Vernon Square district. Those on the south side look over the private interior courtyard shared among the residents of all three buildings in the complex.

"I definitely like the city atmosphere. If you're going to live in the city, you might as well have a view," Dixon said. "I have a perfect, pretty view over rooftops."

The first time Dixon saw her one-bedroom apartment, she was impressed. "They're a good size. And the building is brand-new. It's spotless. It's just beautiful," she said.

The V held a grand-opening party in November and is about 15 percent leased now. Rents range from $1,595 for a 394-square-foot studio to $5,500 for a three-bedroom, three-bath loft with a private rooftop patio. Amenities for all of the units include a fitness center, business center, lounge and club room.

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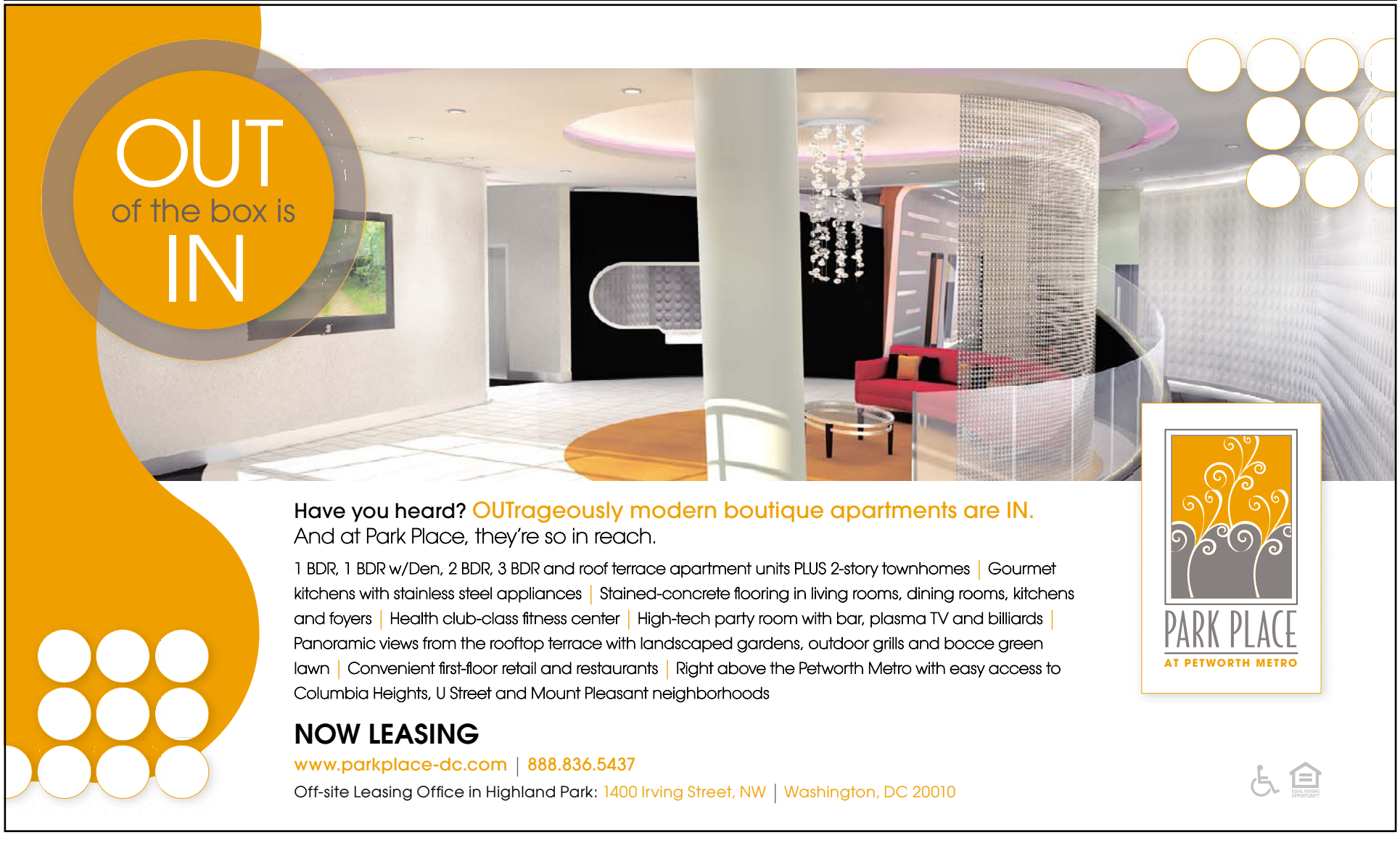
Residents said they are looking forward to using the courtyard when the weather warms up. "When it's summer, I'll be able to take advantage of it," Meuti said. SUSAN STRAIGHT (THE WASHINGTON POST)



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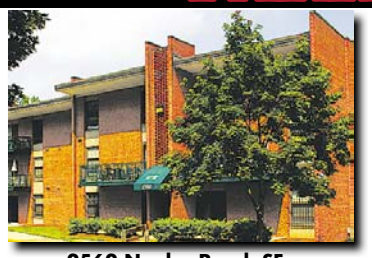

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A BIT OF EARTH: Some apartment dwellers are gardening in other people's yards.

But Can You Dig It?

Renters aching to garden pair up with homeowners

What do you do if you've been fired up about getting down in the dirt and growing your own food but live in a tiny apartment? Meanwhile, there are hundreds — thousands! — of great backyards across Washington growing nothing but grass.

That has been the frustration for friends Alexandra Goldschmidt and Esmeralda Stuk, fans of eating locally and organically who are eager to create their own urban gardens. To help others like them, the D.C. residents are coordinating Sharing Backyards DC (Dc.sharingbackyards.com), a project to match would-be gardeners with those who have untended land they're willing to share.

Stuk, 23, an economist with the Treasury Department, lives with two roommates in a Bloomingdale rowhouse whose backyard is a paved parking spot. Goldschmidt, 25, a communications associate at a nonprofit organization, lives in a one-bedroom apartment near Dupont Circle. She has plastic planters tied with rope atop her tiny balcony's railing that bear a few brown stems poking up forlornly. They're the remnants of a modified herb garden that didn't do so well because, Goldschmidt says, "I think there was not enough sun." Inside is a large pot with a few shriveled sprigs of mint that she rescued from the balcony.

"There's still no replacement for being able to grow things in the ground," Goldschmidt says, bemoaning the fact that the nearby West End community garden has a waiting list of 40 would-be gardeners pining for one of a dozen rarely relinquished lots.

A few months ago, Stuk was cruising the Internet for solutions to her landlessness and discovered Sharing Backyards (Sharingbackyards.com). The Canada-based site was created about two years ago as an answer to overbooked community gardens in Victoria, British Columbia. Creator Patrick Hayes, 27, a green economist and geo-mapping whiz, calls it "basically, just a brilliant idea that couldn't go left untouched."

CONTINUED ON E15

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Buds Next Door

CONTINUED FROM E13

Sharing Backyards connects users who have offered or asked for garden space by submitting their location, an explanatory note and an e-mail address. A user's spot on the map is marked by an image of a fuzzy clump of grass (signifying "I am sharing my yard") or a pair of binoculars ("I am looking for space").

The ground rules need to be hammered out between the space sharers, though the matchmaking site does offer a list of talking points, such as "Do you have tools to share?," "Who will harvest the food?" and "What types of [soil] amendments or additives are acceptable?"

The project, run through an environmental organization called LifeCycles, has no budget to speak of, but Hayes and his roommate, Christopher Hawkins, 28, who volunteers as the project manager, hope the concept is simple and useful enough to take off "in every city in North America," Hawkins says. The mapping tool can be used anywhere, though the project requires local partners such as Stuk and Goldschmidt to take the reins and promote it. There are now a handful of offshoots, including busy programs in Vancouver, B.C., and Portland, Ore. Stuk and Goldschmidt worked with the Canadian coordinators to spearhead the Washington version.

The D.C. site started slowly but in the past few weeks has had a burst of postings from Fairfax to Greenbelt, though most are clustered in Northwest Washington.

Goldschmidt and Stuk are hoping for even more postings on the site, spreading the word through gardening e-mail lists and a recent visit to the Dupont Circle FreshFarm market, where they found plenty of yardless shoppers. Goldschmidt says: "I asked one woman, 'Hey, do you garden?' And she said, 'I wish I gardened, but I don't have space.' It's a real barrier." CHRISTINA IANZITO (THE WASHINGTON POST)

NICK UT/AP

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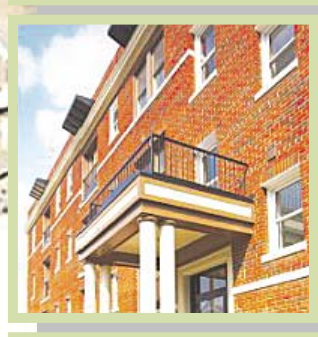

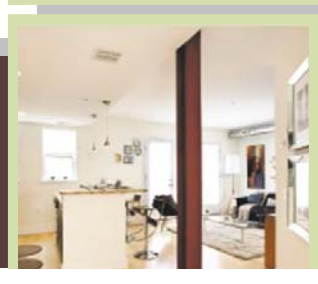

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